

December 3, 2017

## Faith in Jesus

### Acts 3:11-21

Garten Services in Salem, Oregon, “integrates people with disabilities into the community, including finding and helping them keep jobs.”<sup>1</sup> According to ALLSUP<sup>2</sup>, “people with disabilities experienced an unemployment rate nearly 74 percent higher than the rate for people with no disabilities for the first quarter of 2012.”<sup>3</sup> Scott Taber, 19, found employment at a grocery store with the assistance of Garten Services. With a wagon attached to his power wheelchair, Taber hauls customers’ groceries out for them. Taber enjoys his job and likes helping customers. “The only thing that slows him down is when a customer declines his service. ‘I get mad when people say no,’ he says. ‘I want you to write that.’ ”<sup>4</sup>

Our lesson today talks about wholeness through God’s healing power. The student book writer points out that the healing that the man in Acts 3 received came through the faith of Peter and John, not necessarily the faith of the man.<sup>5</sup> And “we grieve that unemployment remains high among persons with handicapping conditions.”<sup>6</sup> This text challenges us to bring about healing and wholeness for others through our faith in God’s miraculous power.

Garten Services offers a type of wholeness to persons who may not be able to grasp that wholeness on their own. While God promises wholeness, God also calls upon the faithful to obediently love and serve others into that wholeness. Someone else’s healing and wholeness may depend on your faith in Jesus Christ, not on theirs.

1. Had you noticed before that the man in Acts 3 was healed through Peter and John’s faith and not necessarily his own faith? How does that change your reading of the passage?
2. What is the role of faithful Christians in bringing about healing and wholeness for others? When have you witnessed offers of healing and wholeness being attached to proclamations of the person’s faith? What was the outcome?
3. How does your faith community act in ministry with persons with disabilities? How does your faith bring about healing and wholeness through that ministry? What impact does this ministry have on your own healing and wholeness?

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From “Workers With Disabilities Showcase Salem Nonprofit’s Success,” by Capi Lynn in *The Lexington Herald Leader* ([kentucky.com/news/business/article184076486.html](http://kentucky.com/news/business/article184076486.html)).

<sup>2</sup>ALLSUP is a nationwide provider of Social Security disability, Medicare, and Medicare Secondary Payer compliances services for individuals, employers, and insurance carriers (according to Disabled World).

<sup>3</sup>From “Rising Unemployment Rate for People With Disabilities,” *Disabled World e-Newsletter* ([disabled-world.com/disability/employment/rising.php](http://disabled-world.com/disability/employment/rising.php)).

<sup>4</sup>From From “Workers With Disabilities Showcase Salem Nonprofit’s Success.”

<sup>5</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2017–2018, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2017); page 8.

<sup>6</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 8.