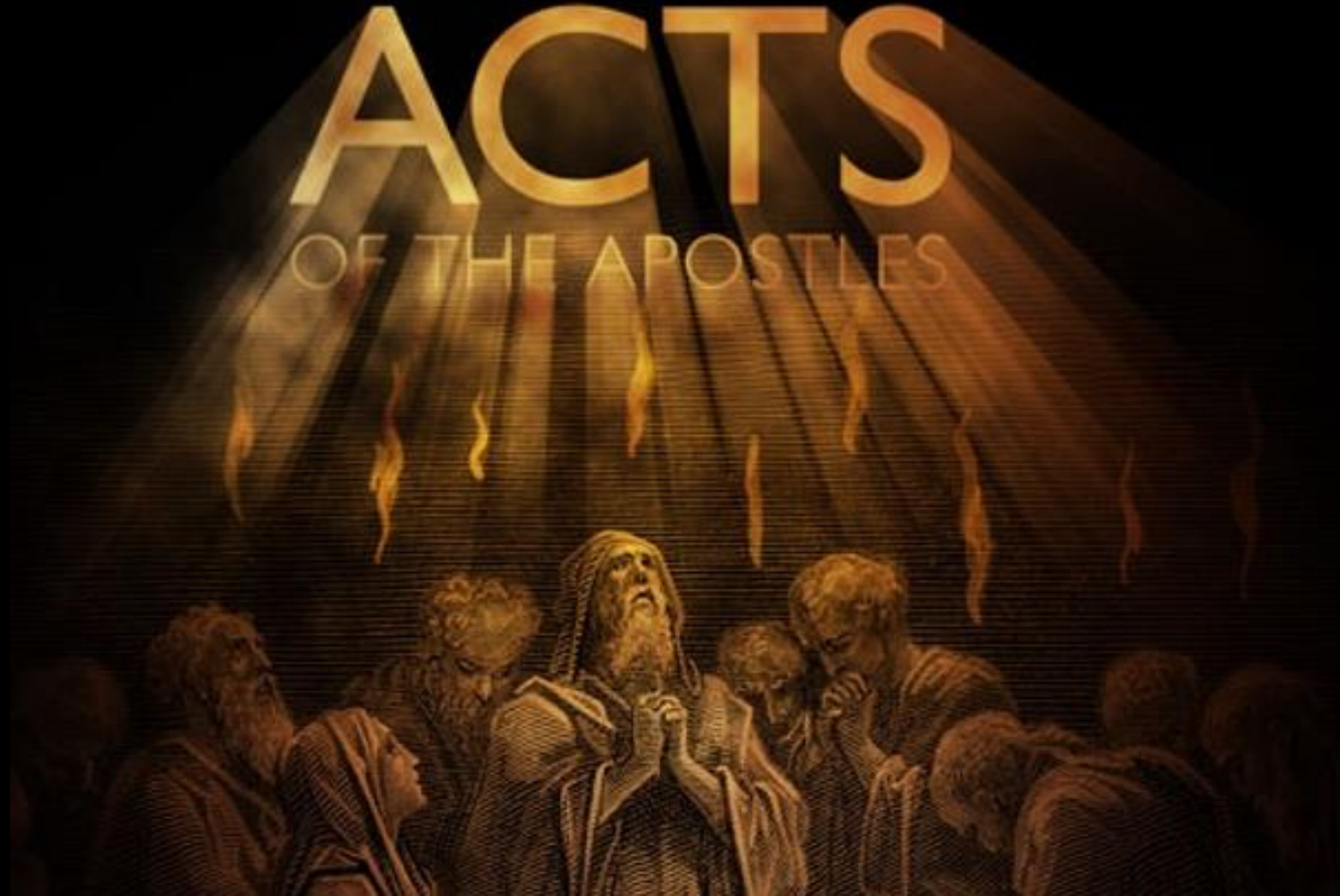
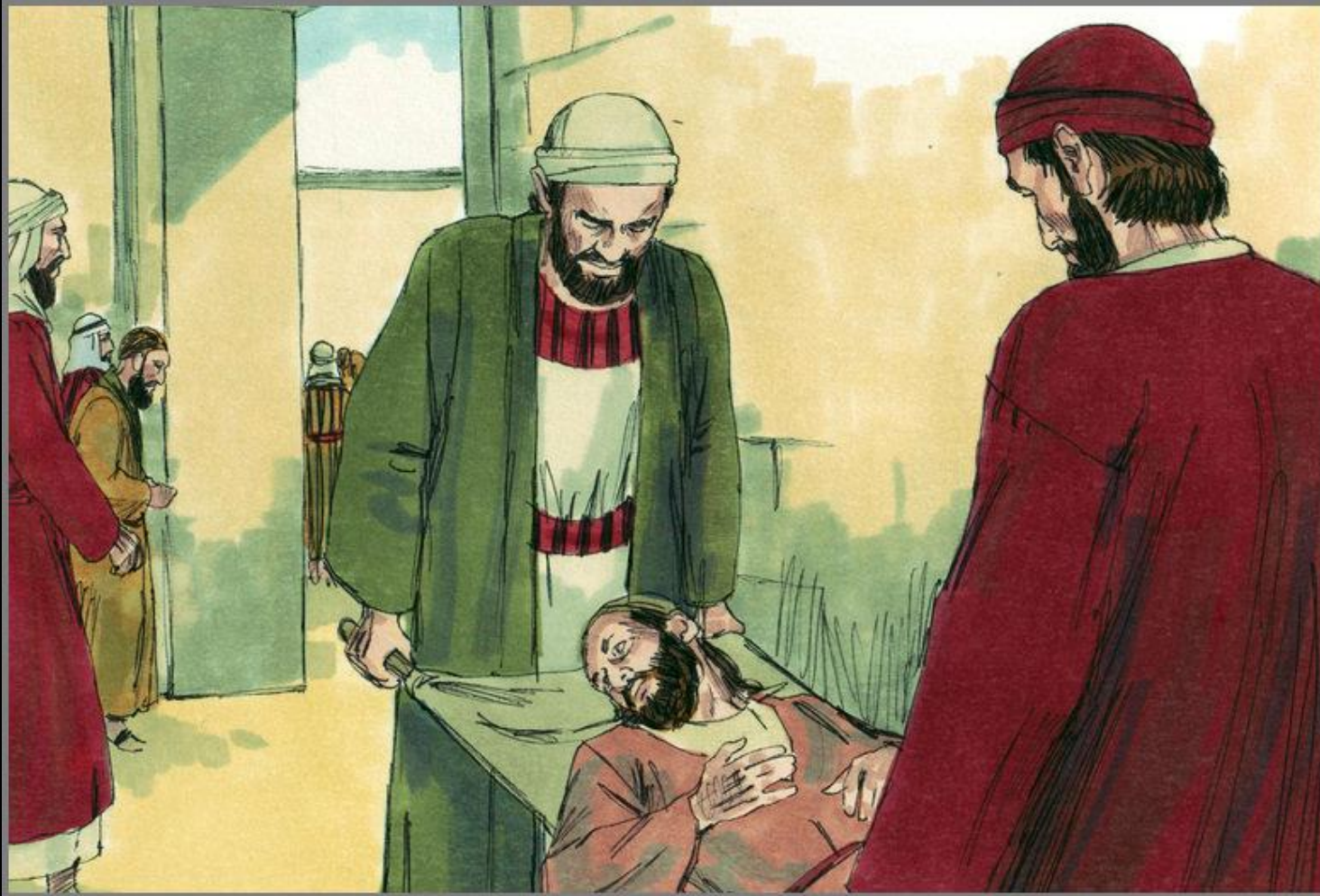


# Week 1: Acts 3

## Peter's Ministry & Message



One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. (v1-2)





#1 While going about your regular activities, God will drop opportunities into your lap. (v1-2)



**#2** These most likely will be things that look common.  
Things/people that you have passed by 100x (v1-2)



# Practical Ideas

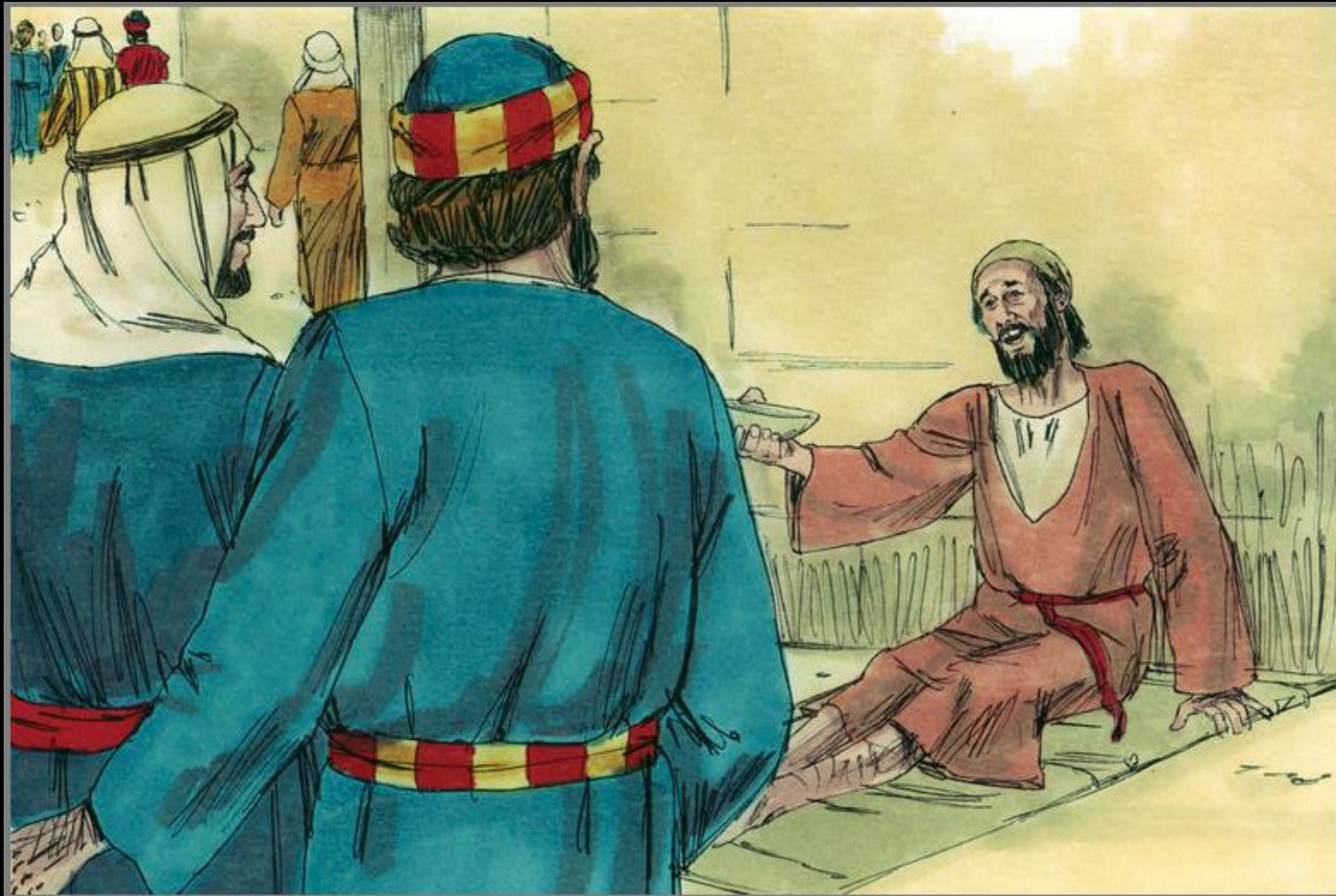
Look for opportunities in  
your sphere of influence.

Look for opportunities  
where you have already 'crossed them off'.

Slow down. Take time to look around and see who may be  
in need or 'ripe for ministry'.



When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. (v3)



#3 Most people will have a “decoy need”. Something that is a symptom of the real problem. (v3)





# Practical Ideas

Don't assume that someone only  
'wants a hand-out' etc. when a need is evident.

Have your antenna up for anyone that may be in need, hurting etc.  
because those are typically doors opening for the gospel.

Listen carefully to the 'explanation' of the decoy problem.  
The 'cause' of this effect will often be identifiable.



Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. (v 4-5)



**#4** Many times we will have  
to help the physical  
need/symptom, first,  
in order for them to listen.  
(v4-5)



# Practical Ideas

Don't over spiritualize the situation by ignoring the physical needs and only preaching to the spiritual needs.

Just as Jesus healed many before preaching to them...we will often need to help pay bills, mow yards, clean up spills before being heard.

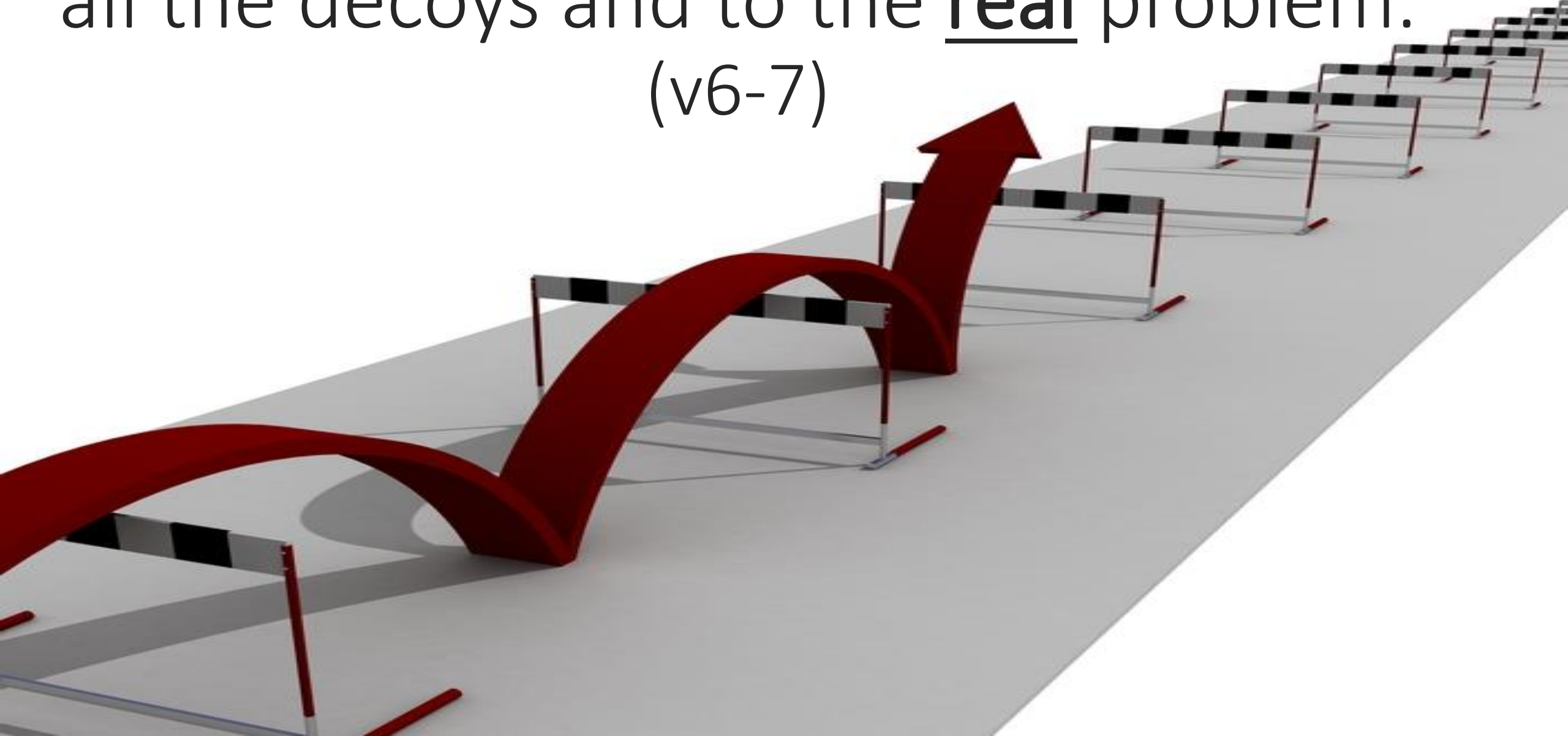
Look for ways to meet people's needs even before they ask.  
Be aware of issues and seek to solve them.



Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.(v6-7)



#5 We must focus on getting through  
all the decoys and to the real problem.  
(v6-7)



# Practical Ideas

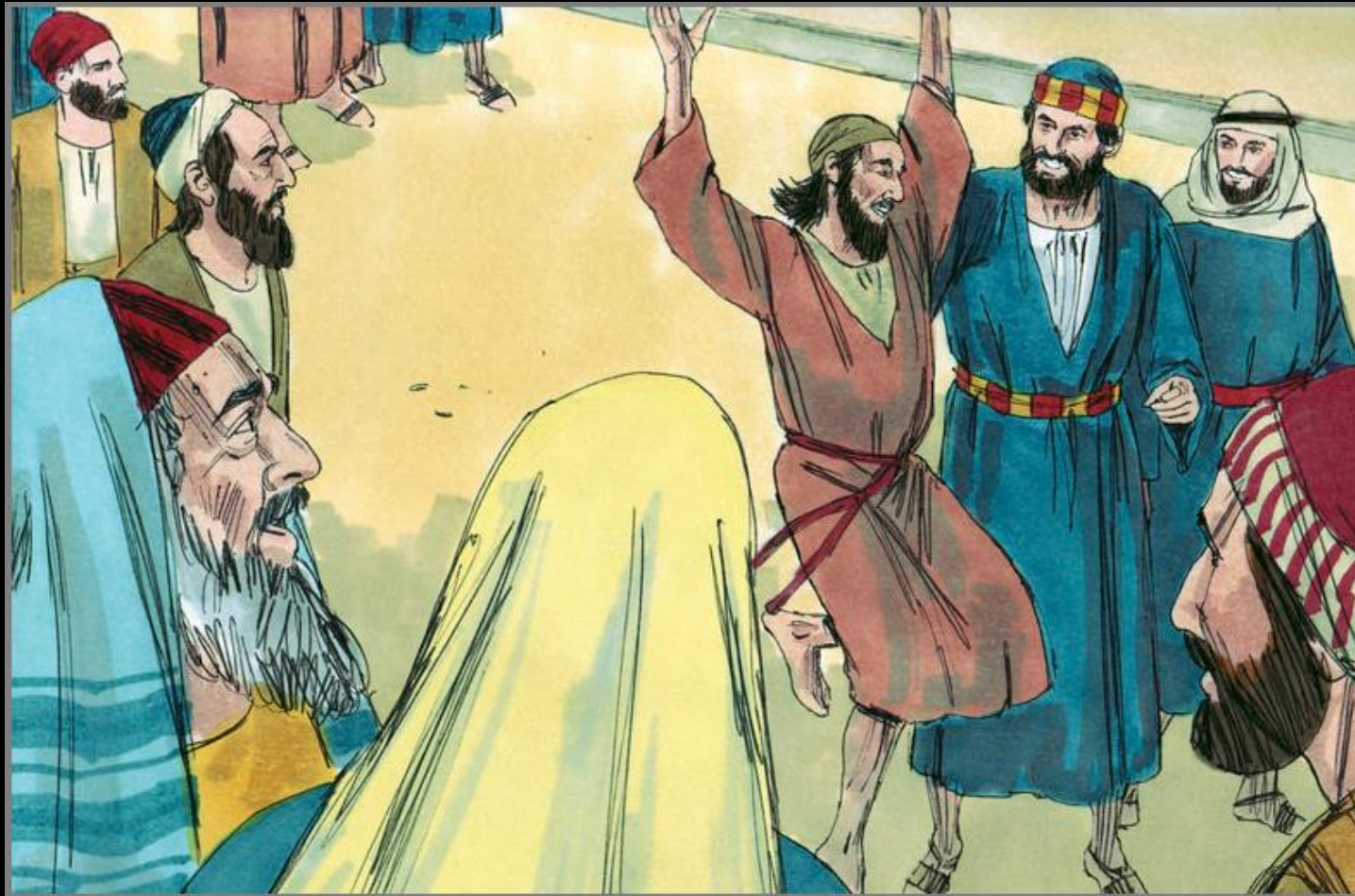
At the end of the day being saved from hell is greater than being saved from a creditor, manager etc.

As you seek to alleviate physical needs, look for ways to graciously, yet directly, bring up spiritual truths.

Do not be satisfied with simply meeting physical needs... the gospel is a message and the message must be shared.

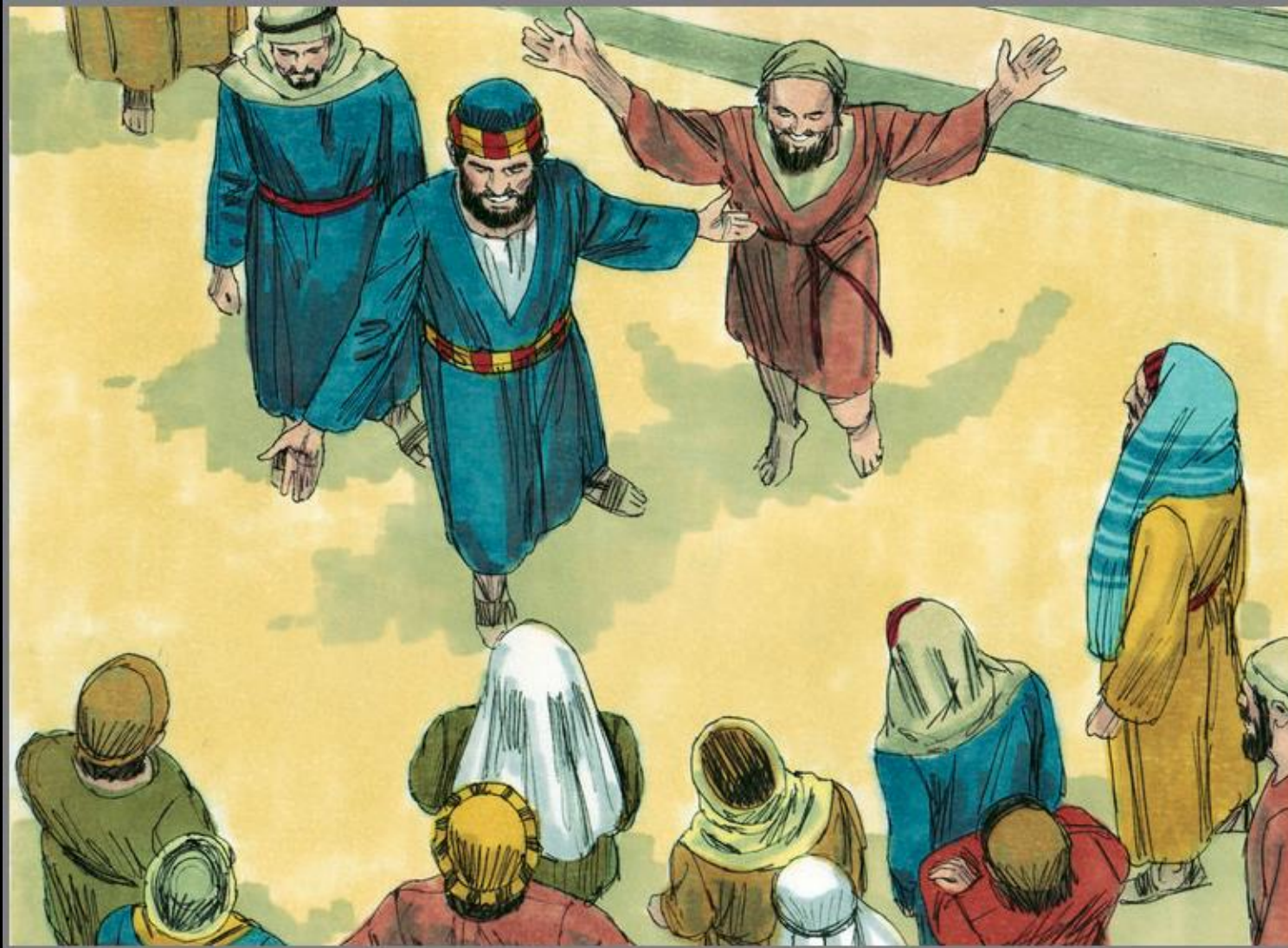


He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (v8-10)





While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. (v11)





**#6** Expect onlookers. Expect word to get around.  
Do not treat these situations casually. (v8-11)





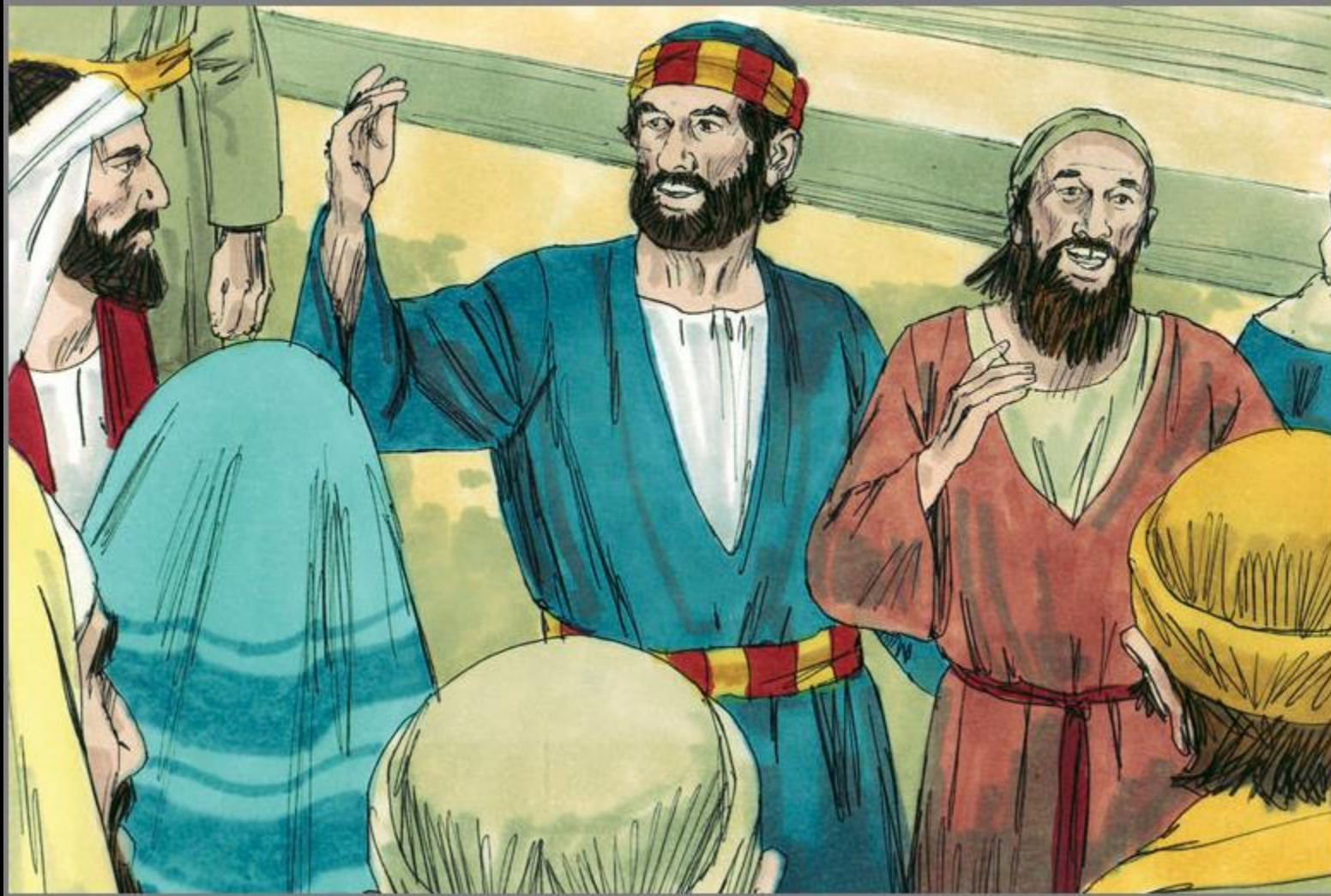
# Practical Ideas

In the world of social media & cellphones...nothing is truly private any more. News will travel quickly.

Anticipate word spreading, both positively and negatively. So be mindful of how you interact with everyone.

As onlookers gather or question...be aware of more opportunities now dropped on your doorstep.

When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? (v12)



**#7** Make sure to give **God**  
(and Jesus) the glory (credit)  
for any ministry success.  
(v12, 16)





# Practical Ideas

Look for subtle ways to testify that how you helped etc.  
was simply a grace of God in your life.

Don't be preachy; as if 'the only reason I helped was because God loves you' 'I didn't want you to go to hell...'

Use giving glory to God as a bridge/transition to an opportunity to foreshadow the gospel.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. (v13-16)



#8 Effective ministry & evangelism  
must be coupled with a message.

Good deeds alone are not  
enough. (v13-16)



# Practical Ideas

Love & Good Deeds are often the best beginning to an effective gospel sharing. But they are not the end goal.

Good deeds should simply be a harbinger to the gospel being shared. Don't be satisfied with serving alone.

Do have a 'wide-angle lens'. It may take 4-5 serving, giving, helpings. Or 100's. Don't go for the kill after the first time you helped.





#9

An effective  
message  
communicates  
personal  
responsibility for the  
crucifixion of Christ  
& disownment of  
him as Lord. (v13-16)

# Practical Ideas

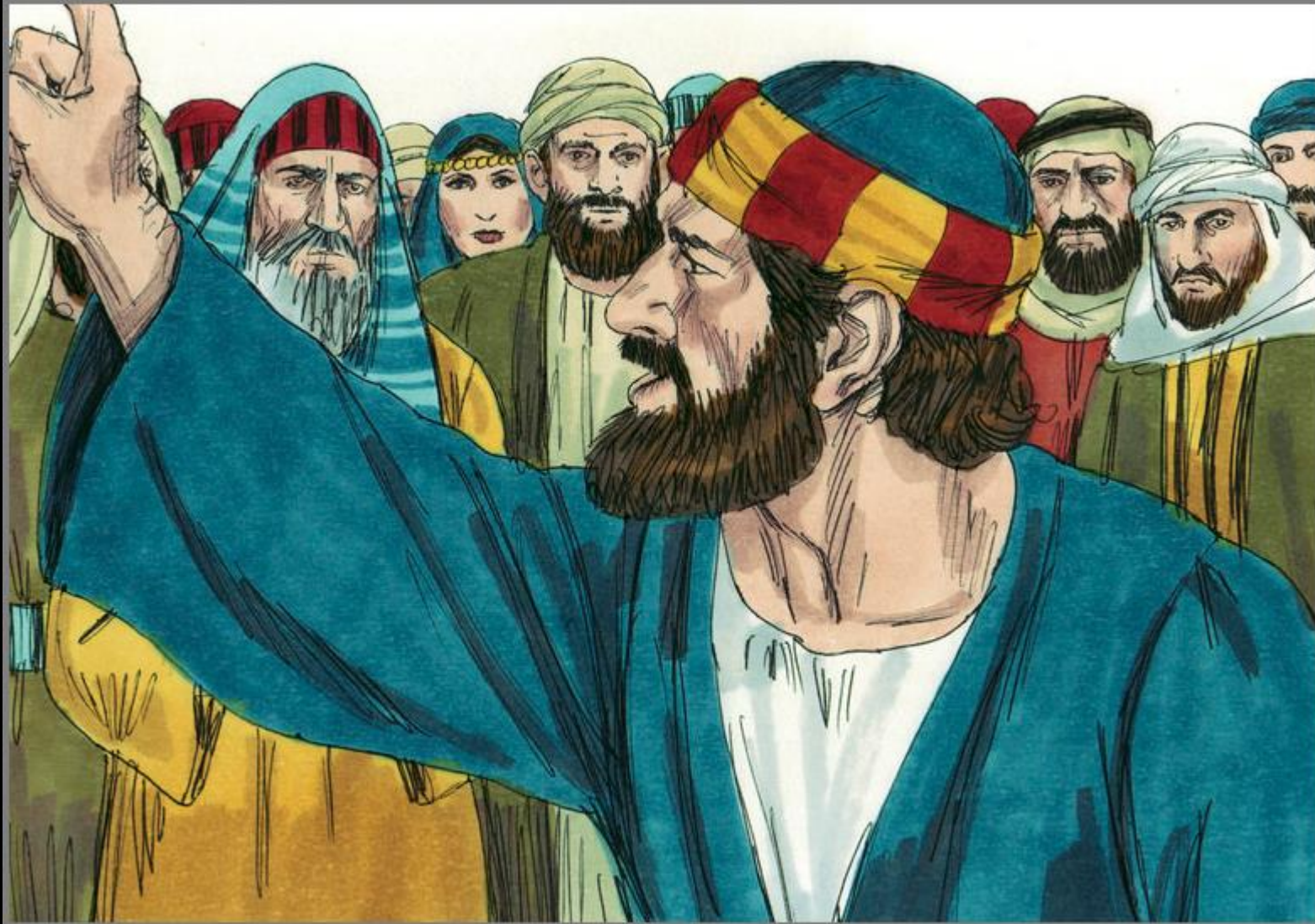
The good news of the gospel can only be understood clearly when the bad news of the gospel has been heard.

Before being able to accept Jesus as 'personal savior'... they must understand condemnation for 'personal sin'.

They must begin to understand that neutrality to Christ as God & Lord is damning...and neutrality to the gospel is NOT vindicating.

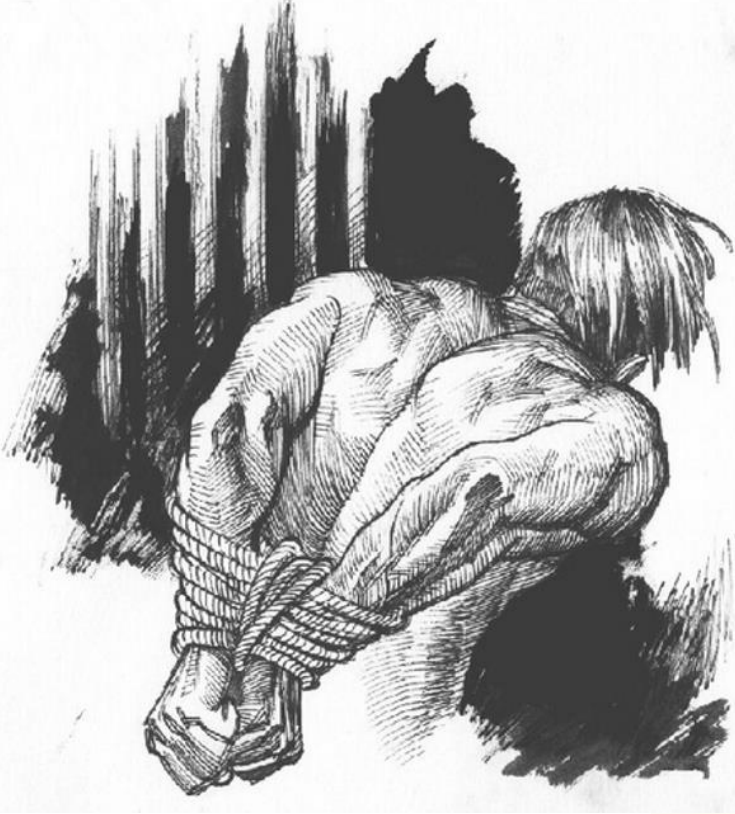


“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. (v17-18)





#10 An effective message points to what God has been doing to overcome our ignorance to truth. (v17-18)



# Practical Ideas

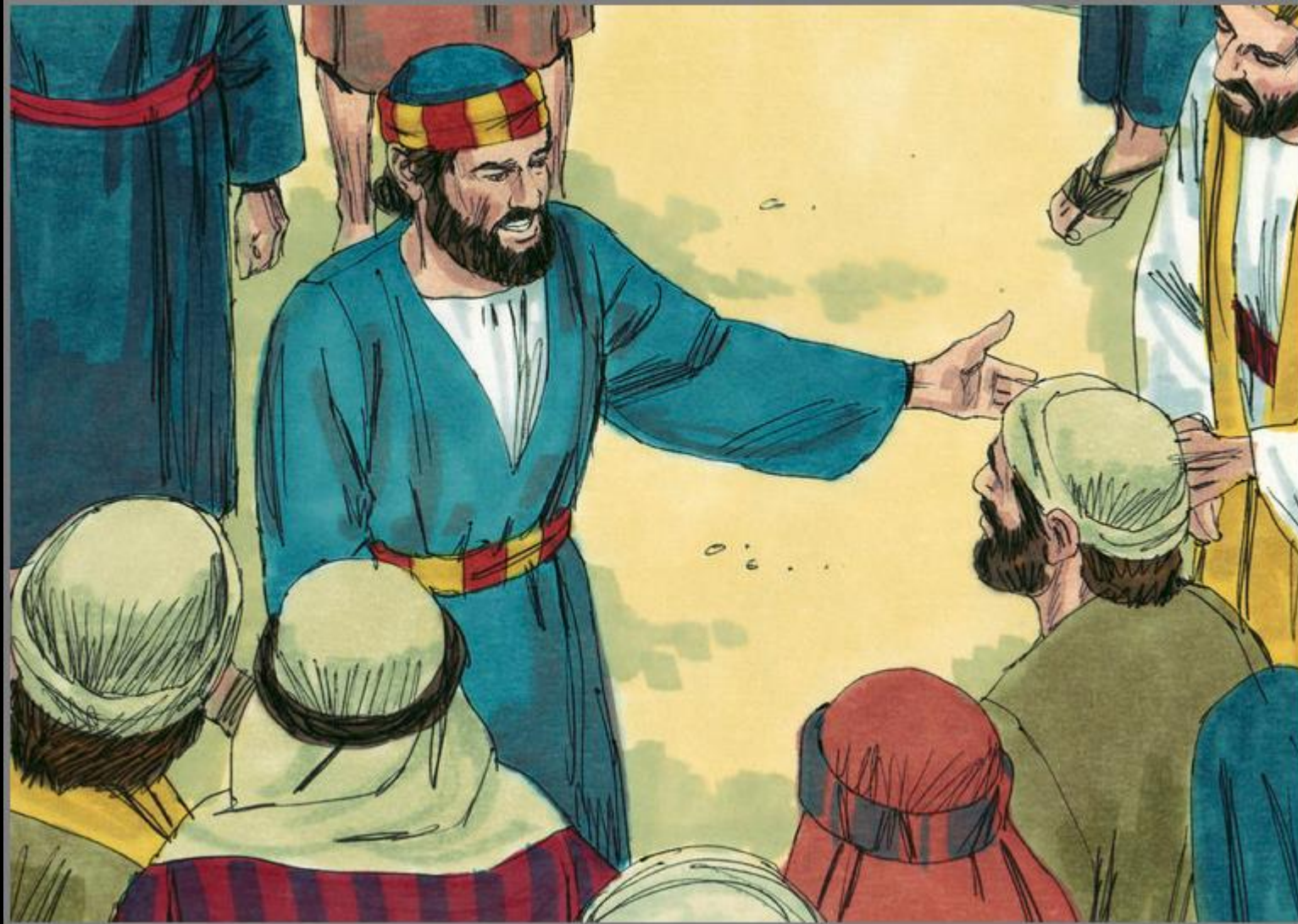
For long term, effective, real results in evangelism more times than not, Romans Road will not suffice for salvation.

For a real understanding of God & guilt and sacrifice & salvation some biblical history will need to be covered.

They must begin to understand the historical and biblical basis for the arguments you are presenting or synchronism will occur.



Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. (v19-20)



**#11** An effective message calls for repentance and a turning back to God. (v19-20, 26)



# Practical Ideas

Again, neutrality and indecision is a decision (*damnation*).

Model what genuine belief looks like. Illustrate what true repentance looks like. (*Without putting words in their mouth*)

After a challenge/call to believe has been given. Ask follow up questions to find out what has been heard and understood. Allow them to hear themselves think outloud.



Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.' (v21-23)

“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.

And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

(v24-26)

**#12** An effective message includes a cross road of believing & listening to Christ or being cut off forever.  
(v22-23) (4:12)





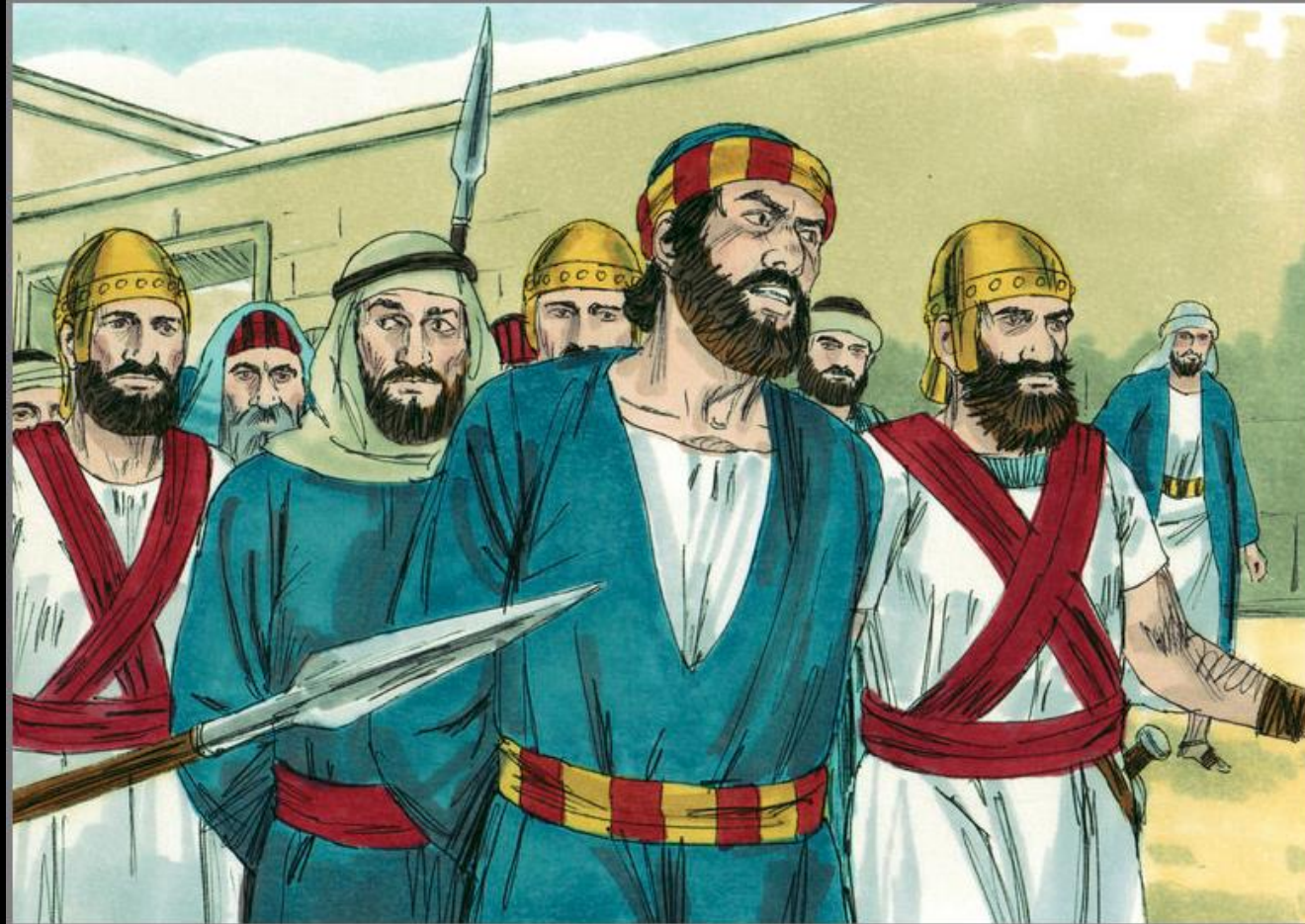
# Practical Ideas

The stakes must be laid out clearly. This is not a casual matter. It may begin casually, but should end seriously.

Graciously put your friend to a decision...  
Not with pressure but with many questions.

Most times you will not get the exact answers/response you were hoping for. Back up, allow time and space, and then return at a future time.

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. (4:1-3)



**#13** Expect rejection and even forms of persecution for speaking so clearly. (4:1-3)





# Practical Ideas

Yes, God is not willing that any should perish. Yes, God wants to use you in a mighty way. But expect disappointments.

Expect ridicule or outrageous claims and responses (especially from onlookers). Don't expect to be able to have an answer for them all either.

Do not think for a minute that your time & efforts was in vain. God rewards everything done in his name. And only time will tell how he will eventually use these efforts.

But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (4:4)





**#14** Also expect God to use your message  
to save many. (4:4)





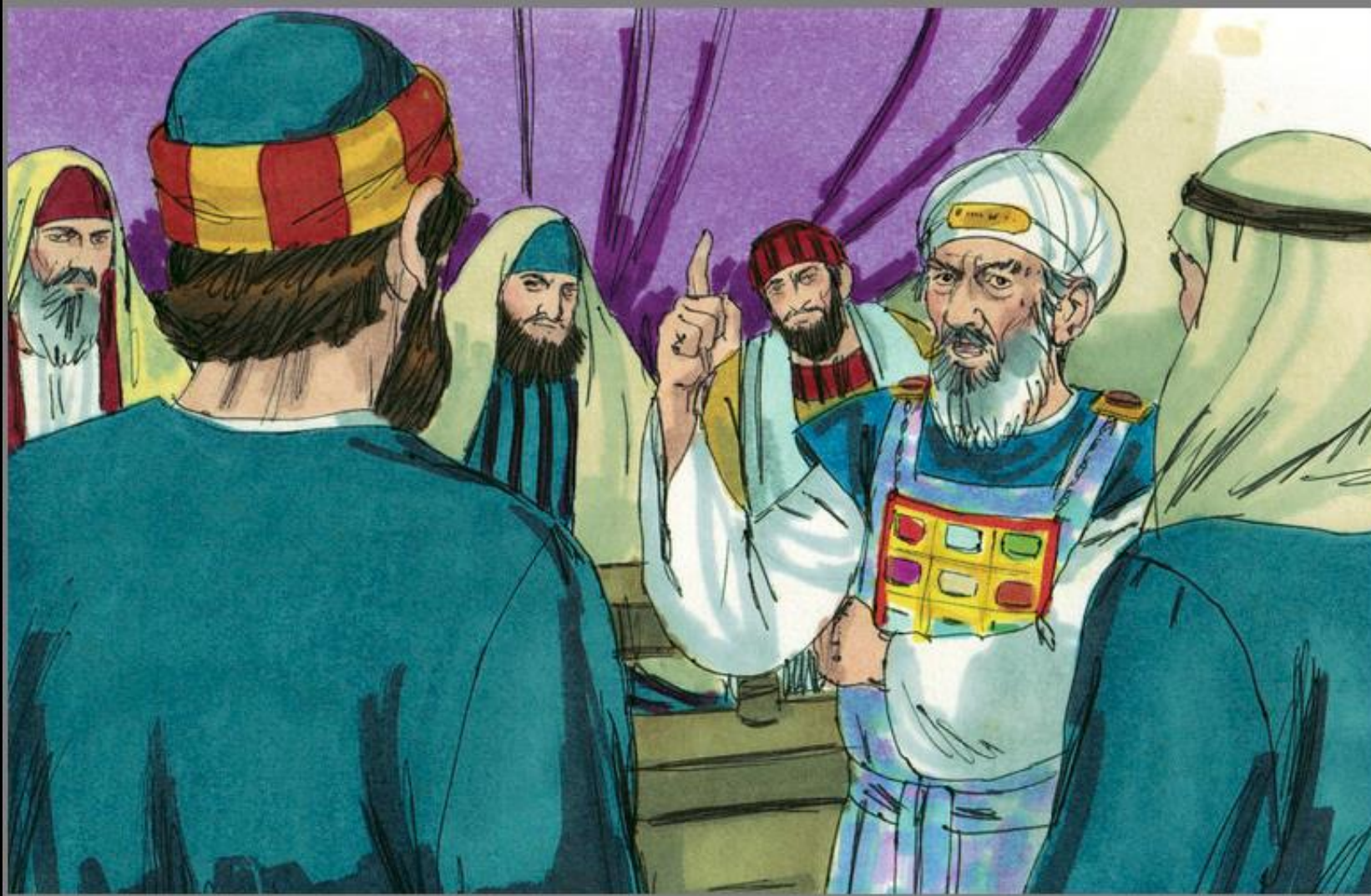
# Practical Ideas

Don't approach evangelism as a lost cause. Be expectant that God will use your faithful obedience to win some.

Expect God to do something mighty either here and now, or somewhere else at some other time.

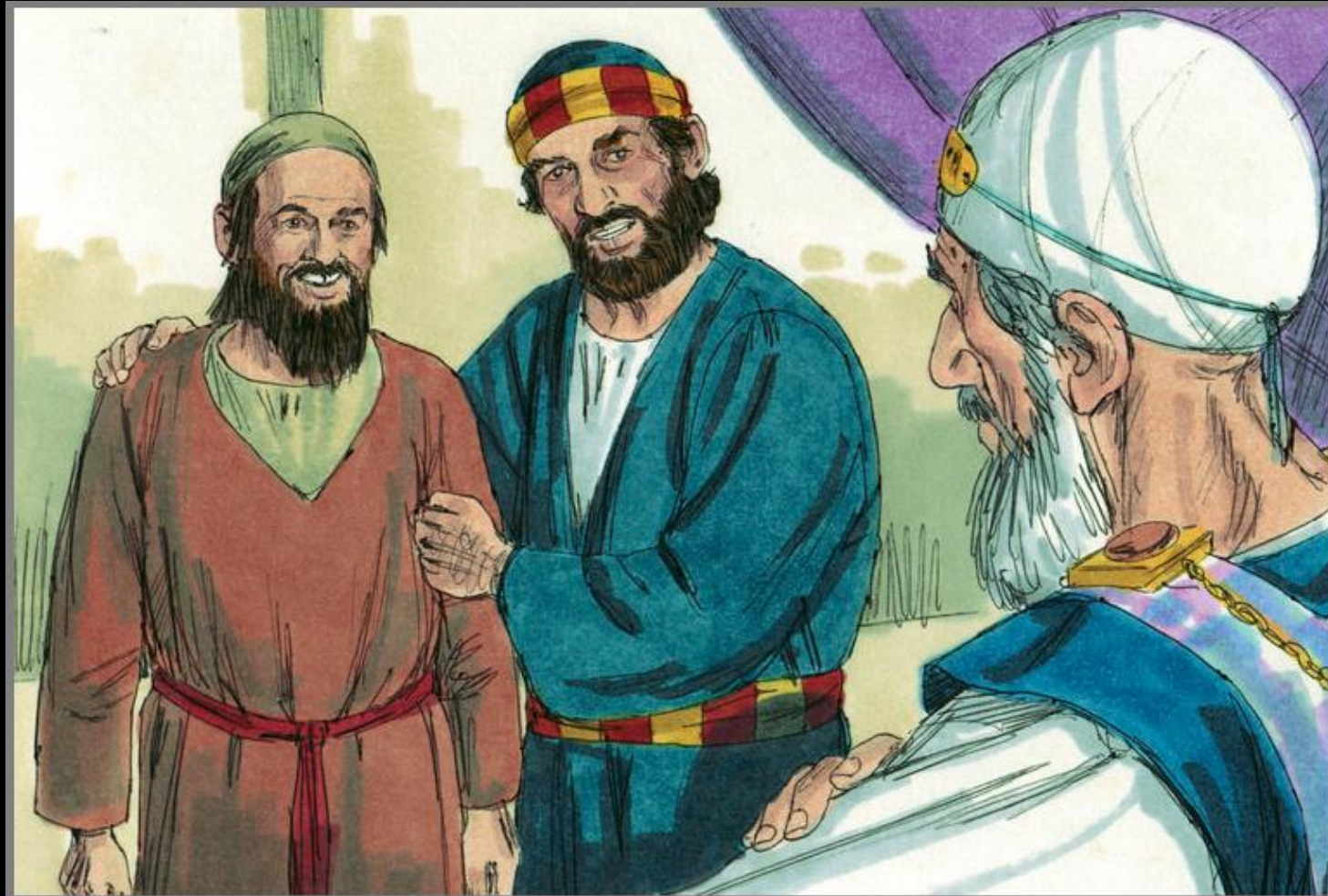
Thank God for baby-steps. Maybe a formerly closed door was slightly opened. Maybe a response was more genuine... etc.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. (4:5)





Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" (4:6-7)





**#15** Expect 'legalist' and hyper-conservatives to reject and question your efforts. (4:6-7)



# Practical Ideas

Expect some of your biggest critics to be from within... especially if you are reaching into the darker parts of the community.

Expect Christian-critics...who may simply be jealous of your willingness/boldness to obey.

Do not ever, whatsoever, back down from pushing forward in evangelism and creativity in evangelism and reaching the 'least of these' because of a critic. God is your judge.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:  
“Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to  
account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who  
was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then  
know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the  
name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified  
but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands  
before you healed. Jesus is “the stone you builders  
rejected, which has become the cornerstone.” (v8-11)



Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under  
heaven given to mankind by which  
we must be saved.” (4:12)



## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

What are some opportunities that you pass by every day?



## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

What are some opportunities that you may have crossed off your list (as impossible)?





## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

What have you seen as 'decoy needs' (examples)  
during your experience in evangelism?



## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

What is your biggest fear in sharing a message of salvation with someone?



## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

Do you have a success story in evangelism that you could share?





## **Group/Follow Up Questions**

Have you ever had a fellow believer question or condemn your efforts to connect with an unbeliever (and what happened)?