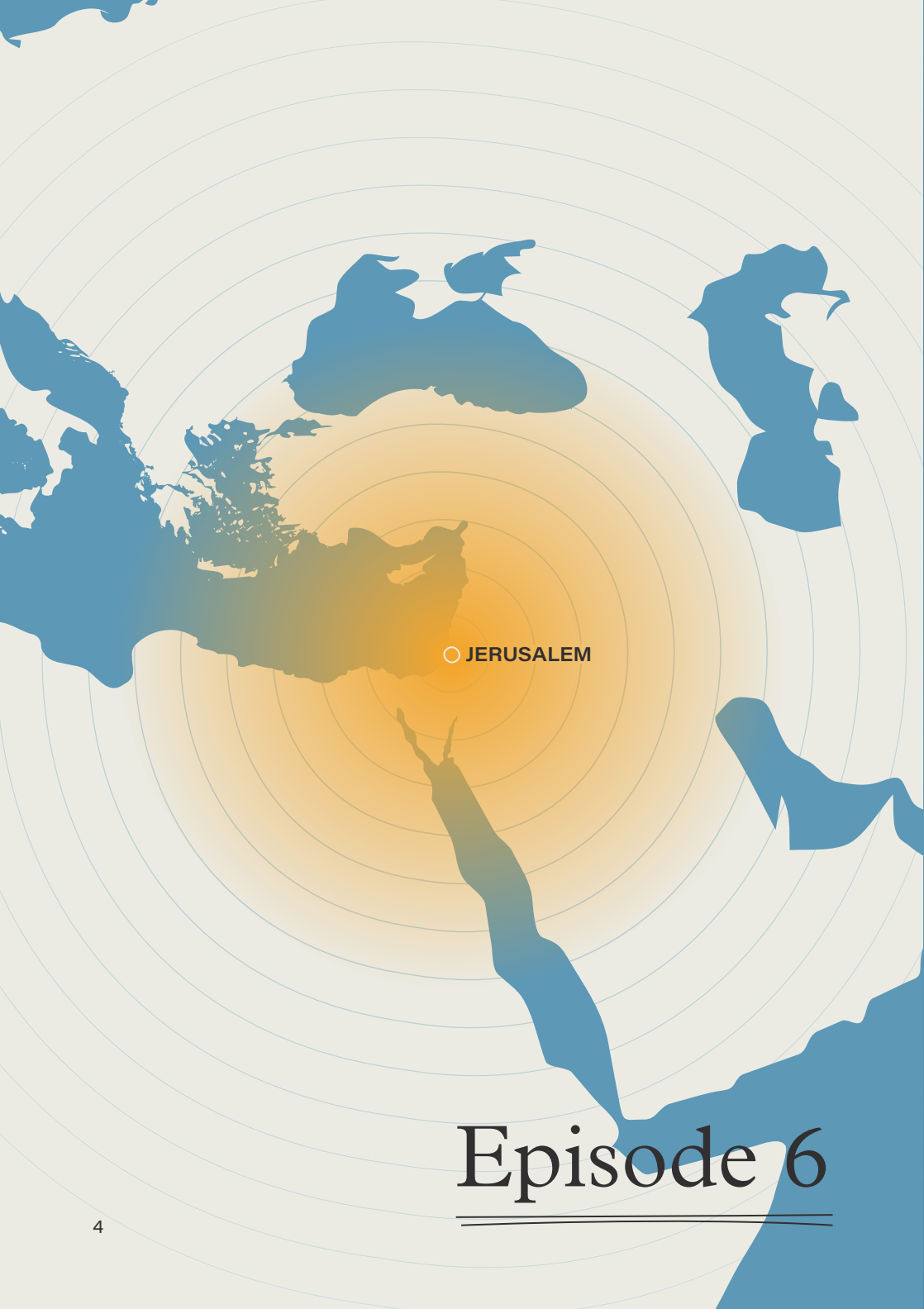


The Word

one to one



○ JERUSALEM

Episode 6

Transformation at the temple

ACTS 3:1-10

*In the previous episode:
The Holy Spirit gets
to work.*

*In this episode:
A miracle that cannot
be ignored.*

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon.

² 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.

Time of prayer: one of three daily prayer times set out in Jewish tradition (morning, afternoon and evening).

Gate called Beautiful: probably the eastern entrance to the temple. It was enormous... over 20 metres high, made of bronze, with huge double doors.

Meeting at the temple

This episode starts a new section in Acts. What happens here will send shockwaves through Jerusalem.

Where are Peter and John going?

- The temple. (v. 1)

Who do they meet?

- A man who'd been lame literally 'from his mother's womb'. (v. 2)
- He was begging for money from religious people going into the temple.

The temple in Jerusalem was at the heart of Jewish religion: the place where people met with God. Jews would pass through the Beautiful Gate on their way to give money to the temple treasury. But disabled people weren't allowed in.

There's nothing beautiful about this gate for this lame man. Even though he is so close to the temple every day, he's excluded.

So what can Peter and John offer this man?

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.



⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, 'Look at us!'

⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.



⁶ 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.'

What Peter can offer

Peter and John are about to go into the temple.

How do they answer the lame man's request for money?

- Peter's pockets are empty. (v. 6)
- But he gives the man so much more
 - in the name of Jesus Christ he can get up and walk.

The man's life is transformed for ever. And the turning point is the command in the name of Jesus.

An Old Testament connection

This is the first time in Acts that something amazing is done 'in the name of Jesus'. But what does that mean?

In the Old Testament, the 'Name of the Lord' is about the presence of God Himself to bless His people.

It's also often tied to the temple. When King Solomon dedicated the temple in about 950 BC, he said, *'I have built a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel'*. (1 Kings 8:20)

There's more on this in the next episode, but Peter's saying two important things:

- Jesus is now how God is present and blessing His people.
- As an apostle, Peter has Jesus' authority to bring blessing in His name.

It's as if the God of the temple has come outside to meet with this man.

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.