

Acts 3:1-11

Walking, Leaping and Praising God

We have come as far as Chapter 3 in our study in the book of Acts.

A) We saw in Chapter 2 the birth of the early Church

Holy Spirit was poured out –

B) The First sermon – Peter preached – 3,000 were saved

1) Communal living

C) **Core Values** – they continually devoted themselves to

- **The Word** - talking about Jesus
- **Fellowship** – Gathering around Jesus
- **Communion** – Remembering the work of Jesus
- **Prayer** – Talking to Jesus
- **Worship** – praising Jesus
- **Evangelism** – Telling others about Jesus

D) These were the things that marked the early church –

1) and these are the things that should mark our Church as well

E) Tonight we are continuing our study – Move from the first sermon – to the first Miracle

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. Pause

Peter and John – interesting duo – Peter was older – John was younger.

A) You recall – they heard the new Jesus had risen – they both ran toward the tomb

B) **John was faster** – out ran Peter – but John stopped outside of the tomb – he didn't enter

1) Peter was more pragmatic – he gets there and goes right in.

C) **John was a thinker a mystic** – Peter was more outspoken and sometimes – that got him in trouble –

1) Rebuked Jesus – get behind me Satan

D) **Peter was a doer** – Fishing – John it is the Lord

1) Peter dives in – forget everything I am getting to Jesus – LOVE PETER

The reason I bring this up – is that the Lord places these guys together

A) They couldn't have been more different

B) That is how the body of Christ – works

1) **Diversity of personality and giftings**

C) We need to appreciate that in the body of Christ

I tell Pastors and ministry leaders all the time – when you are picking your teams –

A) You will be tempted to pick pp just like you!

B) **It is safe – it is comfortable – but don't do it**

1) Your ministry will be one dimensional

C) There is beauty in the diversity in the body of Christ –

1) I love our team here.

We have a good combination of thinkers and doers!

A) Some are quiet – behind the scenes – awesome one on one – some are loud – outspoken

B) Some are pragmatic – others are more mystical

1) Some are thinkers – some are doers

I LOVE IT – INSPIRES ME PERSONALLY

C) The key in the body of Christ is to appreciate those who are not like you –

1) Those who in their personality and gifting are different from you.

D) So Peter and John – are cruising together to the temple to pray- THE 9TH HOUR - 3PM

THE Jewish day began at 6 o'clock in the morning and ended at 6 o'clock in the evening.

A) For the devout Jew there were three special hours of prayer—9 a.m., 12 midday and 3 p.m.

B) Daniel – prayed – these three times

1) 3pm special hour – Hour of the Lord's death.

He cried – It is finished – Veil was torn in two!

C) Here we find the apostles continuing in the normal routine of Judaism – Temple 3 times a day to pray

D) Why? Christianity was not meant to replace Judaism it was meant to fulfill it!

1) They were aware that the new faith and the old discipline could walk hand in hand

E) So they continued with the same disciplines in going to the temple and prayer – new meaning

1) **Religion was replaced by relationship – Practice with a person.**

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

A) Now this man picked a great place to beg for several reasons.

B) It was called **the Beautiful gate** for a reason – It was very pretty –

1) Josephus tells us “the gate was fifty cubits high 75 ft and forty cubits wide, 60 feet – 30 each door

C) **Massive gate was overlaid with Corinthian bronze,**

1) and also covered in gold in certain places

D) It was such a work of art that it “far exceeded in value those plated with silver set in gold.”

It was a gate that separated the court of the women from the court of the men, or the court of Israel.

A) There was this gate and then 15 steps that went down to the lower court, the court of the women.

B) Because it was a beautiful setting – many people entered thru that gate – most popular.

1) That's where this man was laid him every single day.

C) Begging at the entrance to the temple – was also smart because – Jewish system

1) People sought to earn God's favor by their performance

Now in V.2 we are told that he was lame from his birth, so it's a congenital disease.

A) This man is an adult – 30-40 yrs old

B) He has never walked – leg muscles are atrophied

C) JESUS NO DOUBT PASSED HIM

1) He was in that area of the temple many times

D) Jesus saw him – passed by him – but didn't heal him.

1) Jesus doesn't heal everyone physically

E) Pool of Bethesda – John 5 100's of ppl around that pool – waiting waters... He healed ? ONE

What about the others – what about their needs?

A) What about their pain? Why do some get healed and others don't? **I DON'T KNOW!!!**

B) **I DO KNOW** -that healing is a sovereign work of God.

1) God is sovereign in his work – There are some things we will not know until HEAVEN

C) **God is sovereign in his work and he is sovereign in his timing, and this was the time.**

D) So I'm sure as Jesus walked by, he saw the man, but he said, not yet, today's not the day.

1) In fact, that's going to be done through Peter and John in the future.

E) Now the day has come. –

1) So the man is laying there doing his thing – begging for alms

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”

A) Fixing his eyes on him NLT looking intently. NIV Looked straight – ESV directed his gaze

B) Peter and John Stop – sometimes before you can meet the need you need to see the need

1) Peter is looking intently at this man – **LOOK AT US** – this guy – doing his routine – **HEY LOOK...**

Picture this man – in his 40's and for yrs maybe 20 plus years he has been dropped off every day – gate

A) Maybe first went – desperation – looked at ppl Help me – please

B) But after yrs of rejection: Yrs of being ignored

1) Yrs of feeling shame – this is the only way he can exist

C) Yrs of feeling like a pain to the people who have to bring him there every day – and then take him home

D) I would think this guy was dejected – head down

1) Routine – easier not to look – because then he didn't see the pp ignoring him

E) Didn't see them turn their head the other way.
1) He was a broken man in more ways than one.

So that might have been part of the reason why Peter wanted eye contact – the guy was looking down

A) Peter says **LOOK AT US!**

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have,

B) Peter says LOOK AT US! - Do we look like guys with money – { Pull pockets out of his pants

1) Peter says Silver and gold we don't have.

C) Peter is saying: Look at US!!!! – We have nothing to offer you –

1) Last 3 yrs – no pay Check – lousy fishermen

D) Look at us – We don't possess anything in and of ourselves – to help you.

Application for us: We live in a world of broken people

A) Broken by abuse/ addiction/ Divorce/ Bankruptcy
Broken by – people taking advantage = broken trust

B) World filled with hopelessness
1) Bombings in Texas – Corruption in Govt
2) Suicide rate of young tripled in past 2 decades

C) What do we have to help this world?

1) We don't have enough money –

D) Not smart enough – talented enough

E) We don't have anything in and of ourselves – that is of any substance to offer to a hurting world

But we do Have Jesus - Peter Continues

but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Don't you just love Peter – grabs – him by the hand

Love Peter – he just goes for it

Now remember – Luke is a doctor and he is using doctor language here.

A) The word translated feet – is only used by Luke and nowhere else

B) When he says his feet and ankle bones received strength,

C) He's using medical terminology for the joints snapping into place,

1) the tendons and the muscles instantly being strengthened.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

D) There is no Physical therapy needed – Bones and muscles that have never been used –

1) Suddenly strengthened – this guy knew exactly what to do to

E) Walking – **leaping** – hops - Praising God –

1) Excited – beyond measure –

Don't you just love Peter – I don't have any money but I have Jesus – Rise up and walk – FAITH

A) Romans 12:3 – **Everyone has been given a measure of faith** – the capacity to believe

B) 1 Corinthians 12:9 – **The gift of faith** – Extraordinary faith – miracles – healing

C) Peter gets the gift of faith – Before he even knew what the gift of faith was.

1) Paul would write about that until many yrs later

D) But I bet – the disciples talked about that after this

John is like – I can't believe you just grabbed that guy and pulled him up

A) Peter – I know it was crazy – but I had this overwhelming faith – I knew Jesus was ... heal him

B) I remember the story Pastor Chuck – healed a guy in a wheel chair - Family rolled him up – prayer

1) Name of Jesus rise and walk

C) Found out later the family – only wanted prayer because their dad had a cold

1) **PC – God gave him the gift of faith**

D) A couple of weeks later – Another family person in a wheel chair – Chuck just prayed

1) **The Lord didn't give him the gift of faith**

Not everyone gets healed – sometimes the Lord is wanting to use the sickness in people's lives

A) To teach them something about strength in weakness and the sufficiency of his grace – Paul

B) Other times He wants to use their suffering as a testimony to someone else

1) Sometimes it is an issue of timing!

C) But when I am praying for someone to be healed – I want to pray confidently –

1) I pray believing that Jesus can heal anything – sometimes he gives me the gift of faith –

D) I know they are going to get healed – they do –

1) Other times – I just pray believing He can heal and hoping he wants to.

Sometimes I think we pray apologetically

A) Lord heal – but if that is not your will.....

B) Don't pray that way !

C) But what if they don't get healed – Listen if they have a question about that – they will ask

1) Pray in faith – believing – Jesus can heal

Note this too – It was Peter's faith – the crippled man had no faith at all – he wasn't even looking to be healed

A) He was just looking for alms

B) I point that out – because often times the leaders of the Word faith movement – name it claim it guys

1) This trip – You were not healed – lacked faith

C) This was all – Peter – So you should have enough faith for both of us 😊

So this guy gets healed – He is walking leaping skipping and praising God -

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

A) Filled with wonder and amazement – the Bible's way of saying they were Blown away!

B) People are tripping out – Isn't that.....

C) Now this is going to lead to another sermon – Peter is going to preach again –

1) and in Ch 4:4 **another 2,000 people were added to the church – grown to 5,000**

D) See that sermon next week

But as we close tonight – I want to consider three things

#1 We have something to offer to a broken and crippled world - JESUS – GOSPEL

May not have money – resources – but we have Jesus and we should share with same boldness

A) Peter believed Jesus could heal

B) We need to believe that Jesus can transform

C) Silver and gold I don't have but what I do have I give to you – JESUS

In the tiny compartment of a passenger train sat a young lieutenant in uniform. Next to him sat his commanding officer, a crusty old general.

Across from him sat a beautiful young lady. Next to her was her grandmother.

HRS passed – Lieutenant & young lady obvious attraction.

A) The train went into a dark tunnel and the young lieutenant saw this as his opportunity.

B) In the darkness – You hear a Kiss – followed by a loud slap

As the train emerged from the tunnel, the four travelers looked at one another with a variety of expressions.

The young lady smiled and was delighted that the lieutenant would kiss her at that moment, but puzzled as to why her grandmother would slap him.

The grandmother was angry that the lieutenant had the audacity to kiss her granddaughter, but grateful to the general **who slapped** the young man in line.

The general was proud of his lieutenant for kissing the young lady, but was confused as to why the young girl slapped him on the cheek.

The lieutenant was hardly able to contain the laughter within him, as he alone knew what had actually transpired in the tunnel.

Under the cover of darkness, he had seized the moment **to kiss the girl and smack the general.**

Seize the moment, folks!

A) Watch for the moment of the miraculous when the Lord will use you in this dark tunnel of time **to slap the Enemy in the face, as you heal a hurting world.**

#1 We have something to offer to a broken and crippled world - JESUS – GOSPEL

#2 JESUS can transform instantly!

A) **This guy didn't go back to the gate beautiful the next day and beg – why – he was healed**

B) **He was transformed – Listen Church – Jesus is able to transform**

C) **It doesn't have to be this struggle with sin**

1) **A gradual change**

D) **Sometimes – we go back and sit and the gate even though we have been set free**

E) **We just need to walk in it – leap in it – praise the Lord**

#3 Jesus still heals – Pray tonight – anoint with oil

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. James 5:13-15