

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Boldness for His Name

Acts 3:11-18

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

Sermon Audio Blurb: What is the response of Peter as he sees a crowd forming around him due to the healing of a lame man? It is a clarion call to repent of their sins, especially of rejecting Jesus as Messiah and to turn to Him for salvation. Not only salvation of the individual but of the nation. But this required boldness and boldness is the topic of this sermon because it is what is needed all the more in the days in which we live.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read Acts 3:11-18.
- B. This is the first story of this new section in Acts that extends to chapter 8.
 - 1. We tend to think of it as the healing of the lame man, but it is not.
 - 2. The point of vs 1-10 is to establish the apostolic authority to be spokesmen for Jesus Christ. They represent Him to this watching world.
 - 3. And Luke records this event from among various miracles that the Apostles did to show this authority. As Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, *“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles”* (2 Corinthians 12:12)
- C. But this event is not about the healing, it is about Jesus and this is what I want us to concentrate upon for the next 2-3 weeks. I want us to remember what we exist to be and to do. To stop and examine ourselves and not others. To become reoriented to what matters in the end.
- D. And this requires us to begin with Jesus. We will do this by looking at the reaction of the crowd to this healing and the response by Peter.
- E. Warning about treating the Bible as a critic or onlooker or academician.

II. Boldness for His Name.

- A. The response by the people.
 - 1. First, the man healed.

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- a. Joy. Unfettered, unadorned, absolute joy. This is a man who is now made whole. Joy because God visited him that day in ways he could not have dreamed of. *“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever”* (Psalm 16:11)
 - b. A man who for his entire life was outside the way of worship and communion with his creator. He was lame, a crippled man who would be on the outside of the society.
 - c. He would receive pity, but he was a man and pity is not what he needed. He needed to be whole so that he might live and act like a man. To marry and the labor and to provide for his household. To enter into worship with the others. But instead he begged for money earned by others.
 - d. And when this healing occurred he felt no social awkwardness or shyness. He was finally free from the bindings that kept him in weakness and need. He was free and oh what this must have felt like.
 - e. Old men think back if you can to the days of your youth. To the days when you felt the power flowing in your body. When at times you literally quivered. Those times you saw your strength and vitality flowing in abundance. Where running or lifting was exhilarating. And then imagine what this man felt in his legs. Muscles that worked fully and perfectly. Joints that bent without pain. And the ability to stand, walk, run and dance.
 - f. But also note in vs 8 that he knows from where this healing came. It is not Peter that he is praising; rather it is God. It is the recognition that all things come from God.
2. The crowd.
- a. In the midst of this the crowd now reacts. This day goes from the mundane to astonishment in just a minute. In vs 10 they are in wonderment. Everything that they had assumed about that day went away.
 - b. They run up to Peter and the lame man who are at the portico of Solomon. A long, covered porch with many columns that was part of the Temple grounds. It was very large and used as a place to meet, teaching and gather.

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- (1) Jesus taught there in John 10:23.
 - (2) The early church gathered there to worship and learn in Acts 5:12.
 - c. They all wanted to see and, in some small way, participate in this moment. If it were today, everyone's phone would be out trying to record it.
- B. The Response of Peter.
1. He sees the crowd gathering and speaks.
 - a. It appears he merely was helping the man privately. There was no fanfare on his end, what drew the crowd was the response by the man who was healed.
 - b. Solomon's porch is a covered porch that surrounded the temple grounds. The roof is held up by many columns and it would be a place that was cool and out of the elements. This is where crowds would gather to talk, learn, debate and teach.
 - c. But regardless a crowd gathered and he speaks to them. And today I want us to carefully consider what we see here. I want you to listen and think. I want you to not think about someone else, but just you.
 - d. What I want you to consider is how are you functioning in light of the purpose of Missio Dei Fellowship? More importantly, how are you functioning as a Christian in a fallen, broken world?
 - (1) *"Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you"* (John 20:21).
 - (2) Now turn to John 17:14-20.
 - (3) We teach every member here that they are saved out of this world by the gospel. Then Jesus sends them back into this world with the gospel. And therefore, everything we do ought to be defined by and adorn the gospel.
 - (4) Just last week we had the joy of baptizing many people and we rejoice in that.
 - (5) But did you listen to their testimonies? Did you hear and consider yourself in light of what they all said?

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- (a) You had young people who referenced faithful parents who raised them in the gospel. Not merely touching lightly on the subject, but they were immersed in the truth and reality of the gospel.
 - (b) You had older people who rebelled and resisted the gospel. But their parents and friends remained faithful to give them no quarter, no empty platitudes. They put the gospel before them whenever they could.
 - (c) You had those who never knew the gospel. But someone told them of Jesus. Someone or some people gave them the time and energy to speak truth.
 - (d) You had parents who refused to be too busy. You had spouses and family members who chose to talk and not retreat. You had men or women who gave up their free time and their pursuits to pursue a person with the gospel.
- e. Now look at Peter. He is not there to preach. He doesn't have a sermon tucked in his tunic. He was on the way to pray. He healed this guy because he could, but he didn't have a plan to use it to attract attention.
2. Notice how he approaches this situation.
- a. First, he did not wait for some opportune time, he seized the moment.
 - b. Second, he is interested in shifting the focus off of the apostles and to the One who sent them (12).
 - (1) This is a huge issue today with the advent of social media. How often have we posted a picture of our coffee cup and some book or bible we are supposedly reading and contemplating the goodness of God.
 - (2) This is not devotion. This is not worship. This is self-worship and self-acclamation. We are not exhorting our brothers or sisters to read, pray or worship. We are letting them know that in that very moment we are looking like we are doing those things.

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- (3) Peter did not heal the man to attract the crowd. He simply healed the man because he could and should. But it was not about him.
- (4) If you are self-conscious then you will not speak of the gospel.
- c. Third, truth is more important than their feelings or reaction (13-15)
 - (1) Look at how forthright Peter was.
 - (2) He was not talking in vague ways. “Some may have disowned Jesus.” No, “you” are the guilty ones. He is like Nathan the prophet, “You are the man.”
 - (3) When did you last speak in such a way to a person like this? Not obnoxiously, but truthfully, when did you tell a person the desperate situation they are in?
 - (4) The necessity of speaking the gospel is you must speak about the negatives. You must speak in terms that are offensive.
 - (5) 1 Corinthians 1:20-29 is your orders from God.
 - (a) Two types of “wisdom” (20).
 - (b) The gospel is foolish (21).
 - (c) You cannot reach people by attracting them according to their wants (22).
 - (d) The reaction to many will, not may, be negative (23).
 - (e) The reaction to some will be saving faith (24).
 - (f) You are worse than you think (26).
 - (g) God is interested in His glory and not your comfort (27-29).
- d. He is prepared by knowing the gospel and biblical story.
 - (1) This sounds simple but what I want you to do is go home at ask one another, what is the gospel? See how easily it comes to your mind.

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- (2) This is not the time to impress one another with your spiritual acumen. It is simply to see how well you and your household can state the essence of the gospel.
 - (3) Do you know the story of the bible? Do you know where we came from and where history is heading? Do you read your bible, or do you only begin to read it and then move on to what you really value?
 - (4) Can you tell people the story?
 - (5) Many can give a few verses here or there and say the basics of the gospel. But then a question is asked and all that the person gets is a blank look. Why? Because they have not trained themselves to be ready to give an answer for their hope.
 - (6) But if you really know what the bible says about God, man, salvation and judgment, then you also will also know that there are non-negotiable truths that the bible lays down.
 - (a) You cannot serve God and money.
 - (b) The world is passing away but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
 - (c) Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 - (d) Little children, do not be deceived, the one who lives out righteousness is righteous like God; but the one who lives out sin is of the Devil.
 - (e) There is a broad path and many upon it, but it leads to destruction. There is a narrow path, few shall be on it, but it leads to eternal life.
- e. He is prepared to be hated.
- (1) You have to be willing to lose friends, lose influence and to even be hated by the very people you speak to in order that they might be saved.
 - (2) What are you afraid of? Do not lie to yourself right now. Instead, ask and answer to yourself with God alone as witness, what are you afraid of?

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- (3) Walter Martin described a problem that still exists today. It is that the church suffers from “nonrockaboata.”
- (4) We are in a fight, a spiritual war and we are not showing ourselves to be warriors of the faith.
- f. He is convinced beyond anything else that the gospel is the only way a person can be saved and be made right with the one, true God.
 - (1) You are to love them like Christ loved. He spoke the truth.
 - (2) To the weary and heavy-laden He offered rest, but only if they came under His yoke and followed Him.
 - (3) To the rejecter of grace and life He left them with the promise of hell-fire.
 - (4) Kind words will not save a person. Modest clothing will not save a person. Helpful acts will not save a person. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only things God gives to us by which a person can be saved from the wrath of God.
 - (5) *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)*
- g. He is bold.
 - (1) The gospel demands we offer no quarter.
 - (2) It demands that we believe it or not, but there is no middle ground. No man, woman or child comes to faith by you being vague.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Missio Dei Fellowship is named on purpose to put in our mouths the calling of all who are part of this church.
 - 1. We are to be about the mission of God and a key part of that is how we gather to confess, share and participate in the gospel and word.
 - 2. We are equipped.
 - 3. But it is to go back into this world with the gospel. To actually engage and speak it. Not just talk about doing it.

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- B. The SBC had a campaign recently that simply asked this question, “Who is your one?”
 - 1. The point is simple, stop thinking about this in vague terms. Instead identify “your one.”
 - a. This is the first step and I can tell you that if you don’t start here you will never go anywhere with learning to be bold with the gospel.
 - b. God has placed people in your life, now identify one of them and commit to bring them the gospel. And don’t make it private.
 - 2. Then create up a plan to serve and care for them in specific ways.
 - a. This is simply a word of encouragement or it is sitting down with them over coffee to get to know them.
 - b. This is you beginning to step out into the mission field God has placed you and engage the culture. No different than what every missionary has ever done in their setting.
 - c. Then commit to pray for them. Really pray, not just toss their name in as part of some list.
 - 3. Next, you start to talk to them.
 - a. It can be simple as “I am a Christian and would you mind if I kept in prayer this situation you just spoke about?”
 - b. You ask them what do they believe? Or what is their spiritual background. And be ready to hear anything and everything.
 - c. You include comments about church in a simple, natural way in your conversations. Then it is easy to ask were they raised in any religion.
 - 4. Finally, you bring the gospel to them.
- C. But you will never do this if you are not prepared to act and live like the apostles did.
 - 1. You accept that life is not about you and your needs and desires.
 - 2. You love truth more than anything else.
 - 3. You know the gospel inside and out. Not just the facts, but the whole story line.

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4. You are willing to be hated or scorned.
5. You are convinced that nothing else matters in the end.

Benediction

May we stand firm against the spiritual powers that press upon us in the strength of the Lord and in His might. May we take up the full armor of God so that we might resist and stand fast in these evil days. May we walk in the peace that comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ and we live in the power of the Spirit to the glory of the Father. Amen.

Community Group Questions

- **Draw lots in some way and pick three people to state the gospel in a succinct manner. Then, discuss what stood out to the person who spoke and those who listened. Make this a time to help and instruction and encouragement.**
- **Who is your “one?” and if you don’t have someone then take a week to consider who should be your “one.” Do not allow it to be a “safe” individual such as an aunt in another state or their child. CGLs, record and put it out via the app messenger for all in your group to pray for boldness.**
- **Are you willing to be held accountable and encouraged by your fellow believers to begin to own your responsibility? This is something you need to discuss in genuine earnestness.**