

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 3:1-10

- Concerning the book of Acts it was A.W. Tozier who said > “**if the Holy Spirit was removed today 95% of what you see in ministry would keep right on going and nobody would know the difference, but if the Holy Spirit was removed from the church of Acts 95% of what they were doing would’ve come to a screeching halt, and everyone would have known the difference**”. What he was saying is much of what we see today is man manufacturing his talent, fashioning and marketing it into good works, then taking the credit and afterward calling it ministry.
- That is not the case here, we will not see anyone but the Lord receive the credit, the person God uses is not seeking the limelight, no one will be going on tour to promote themselves or their ministry, as the emphasis of the preaching, teaching, and working for the early church is going to be on the name of “**The Lord Jesus**” He is the focus and it was in His authority that the Apostles did everything for His name is above every name and He deserves our worship and obedience.

V1-10

- **V1-3** In accordance to Jewish custom everyday at 9am, 12pm, and 3pm, devout Jews would stop whatever they were doing and head to the temple where they spent an hour in prayer, this time consisted of fifteen minutes of silent meditation, thirty minutes of petition, and fifteen minutes of adoration, so first **you sit**, then **you seek**, and last **you sing**, I like it. So, its 3pm and Peter and John are headed to the temple and as they’re about to enter in there is a man lying there asking people for money as they entered into the temple, now you have to admit this is great strategy.
- First, he is in a prime spot, like at Christmas when people will be all over the median where shopping centers are located asking for money, knowing that people are out shopping and feeling a little more generous than normal. So, this is prime real estate for a beggar, as he knows people are going in to pray, some have done some things that their looking to repent of and receive forgiveness, why not start by doing a good deed, others feel spiritual why not continue that thought by giving to those less fortunate, either way he receives from those going in.
- Were also told a few things about him, **1st** that he was crippled from birth, **2nd** being unable to walk he needed assistance to get around, **3rd** he could be found at this place on a daily basis. This was his job, his means of support, there were not social services, no disability acts for him to rely on, he was at the mercy of other people’s generosity and compassion in order to survive. **V3** this is a typical day in the life of this man as he sees a couple of men approach, little did he know that not only was his life about to change but also his whole reason for existing.
- He does what is his norm asking Peter and John for money, as he simply wanted to be supported in the condition that he was in, but God has something much better in mind for him. I want to point something out that is interesting about human beings, that we all have a plan for our lives.

- This man even though he was crippled still had a plan, “**lay me at the gate**”, but not any gate the gate beautiful, where the people entering in for prayer and seeking to be religious will see me and either feel sorry for me or guilty, either would do, and they’ll give me support, this is a good plan > **Prov 16:9**- people love to plan his way but it is God who will decide our paths. This goes back to the garden in **Gen 3:6-7** Adam and Eve just sinned but instead of going to God and confessing that they’d disobeyed Him, they hatch a plan to cover up by sewing fig leaves together and hiding from God, it’s crazy that they thought this would work, but it’s still a plan.
- **V4-8** Peter fixes his eyes on him, this is the leading of the Spirit, as thousands of people are headed to the temple at this time, and scores of beggars asking for support, yet God has Peter go to this particular beggar at the gate of Beautiful and notice him. The man is encouraged when he sees that Peter-John have noticed him, because most people who don’t intend to give want to ignore beggars and are careful not to make eye contact with them in order to not give them any hope that they’re going to receive any money from them, so no doubt he thought he was going to get something perhaps even holding out his hand or cup to receive their generosity.
- To his surprise he hears Peter say that he didn’t have any money to give to him, but what he did have that he will give, and he grabs the man, lifts him up and immediately his ankles received the strength to stand, walk, run, and jump. The man who was crippled from birth, born in need of total support from others is now able to stand and walk for the very first time. **V8** once he realizes he’s been healed he begins to jump and leap and sing God praises to all who would listen. I love that the first place he goes is inside the temple, not to his neighborhood, or home or his parents or relatives, no he goes into the temple to show everyone what God has done.
- All his life being crippled he was never allowed inside the temple by the people who gave to him while they went in to pray and praise the Lord, so now he goes in for the first time and he’s letting everyone know how excited he is to be there. Before the **Covid 19** there was so many of us who took going to church and worshipping and fellowshiping together for granted, but now after almost a year of being in this pandemic you have a different perspective about going to church, or bible study, maybe some of you will be like this man the first time back in service.
- **V9-10** everyone else started to praise God also, because he was recognized as the man who once sat outside the gate asking for money being crippled, but now he is rejoicing having been healed. This is literally what we mean when we say “**putting feet upon your faith**” this man does two things that is noteworthy **1st** he attaches himself to the Apostles, noticed he entered in but with them, **2nd** he immediately started to use what God had given him > **his feet** (walking and leaping) and **his faith** (praising God).