

Week 6 Summer Series: In His Footsteps/ All Things are Possible with Jesus Christ

August 9, 2025

Opening Monologue

Welcome back, or welcome for the first time, to the AVC App! We're in the midst of our Summer Series titled "In His Footsteps." If you've missed any sermons, you can find them on our YouTube channel, linked below, or watch them directly on this app or our website.

This Sunday, I've titled the sermon "All Things Are Possible with Jesus Christ." This biblical theme shines through in the New Testament. All things are indeed possible with Jesus, but let's be real—sometimes life doesn't feel that way. This week, we'll dive into the realities of life, including a personal story of great pain I overcame.

I know some members of our AVC family are facing debilitating circumstances. Remember, neither Jesus nor the Bible promises a life overflowing with joy and endless chocolates. Seriously, even Jesus and His closest disciples, who walked with Him daily, faced severe crises. Many paid the ultimate price of martyrdom. Jesus Himself tells us, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

So, what do we do—give up? That's exactly what Satan wants. Honestly, you may feel like nothing will ever change, much like the man at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5, who endured his debilitating condition for 38 years. Yet, after all those years, he met Jesus, and his life was transformed forever. Some of you may feel trapped, hopeless, or like there's no point in trying anymore. But hold fast to this truth: "All things are possible with Jesus Christ" (multiple biblical passages in Sermon notes/Sermon).

Join us this Sunday as we dive into God's Word to be encouraged and

transformed!

Blessings in Christ!

Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Week 6 Sermon Series: In His Footsteps/ All things are Possible with Jesus Christ"" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

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Key Sermon Texts

Mark 10:27

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2010%3A27&version=NIV>

Mark 9:23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%209%3A23&version=NIV>

Luke 1:37

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A37%20&version=ESV>

Philippians 4:13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%204%3A13%20&version=ESV>

Acts 3:1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%203%3A1-10&version=ESV>

John 7:38-39

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%207%3A38-39&version=ESV>

How Circumstances Can Change Through Christ

Drawing from the healing in John 5 and other New and Old Testament passages, here are key ways Jesus can transform your circumstances, with insights into how this encourages your spirit:

1. Christ's Power Overcomes Impossible Situations

The man in John 5 had suffered for 38 years, a duration that suggests his condition was beyond human remedy. Yet, Jesus' command defied the man's physical limitations, instantly healing him. This reflects Matthew 19:26 (NIV): "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Christ's divine authority can break through barriers—whether chronic illness, financial ruin, or relational breakdowns—that seem insurmountable. For you, this means no circumstance is too entrenched for Jesus to change. Your spirit is uplifted by the hope that His power can alter even decades-long struggles, encouraging you to trust Him rather than despair.

2. Jesus Initiates Change Through Personal Encounter

In John 5:6, Jesus saw the man's need and approached him, asking if he wanted to be healed. This shows Christ's compassion and initiative, seeking out those who are helpless. Similarly, Psalm 34:18 (NIV) states, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Jesus enters your circumstances, not waiting for you to have all the answers, but meeting you in your pain. This encourages your spirit by reminding you that Christ sees your struggle and is actively present, offering transformation when you feel stuck or overlooked.

3. Faith and Obedience Unlock Transformation

The man in John 5 responded to Jesus' command to rise and walk, despite his long history of incapacity. His obedience, however small, aligned with Christ's power, leading to his healing. Mark 9:23 (NIV) reinforces this: "Everything is possible for one who believes." Your faith in Jesus—expressed through prayer, trust, or acting on His guidance—can open the door to change. For example, if you're facing a difficult situation like joblessness, trusting Christ might lead you to take steps (e.g., applying for a new opportunity) that align with His provision. This encourages your spirit by empowering you to partner with Jesus, knowing your faith can catalyze His work.

4. Christ's Transformation Extends Beyond the Physical

After healing the man, Jesus later found him in the temple and said, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (John 5:14, NIV). This suggests the healing wasn't just physical but invited a new way of living, possibly spiritually and morally. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) echoes this: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Through Christ, your circumstances—whether emotional wounds, addictions, or broken relationships—can be transformed holistically, leading to a renewed life. This lifts your spirit by offering a vision of not just surviving your challenges but thriving in a new identity in Christ.

5. God's Timing and Purpose Bring Hope

The man waited 38 years, yet God's timing through Jesus was perfect, fulfilling a purpose beyond immediate relief. Romans 8:28 (NIV) assures, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Your prolonged struggles don't mean God has forgotten you; rather, Jesus can work through them to bring about His plan, as seen in Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. This encourages your spirit by instilling patience and trust that Christ is orchestrating change, even when it feels delayed, aligning your circumstances with His redemptive purpose.

Practical Application for Your Circumstances

The story of the man in John 5 and these scriptures offer practical ways to see your circumstances change through Christ:

- **Seek Jesus in Prayer:** Like the man who was seen by Jesus, bring your struggles to Him in prayer, asking, "Lord, I want to be made well." Be honest about your desires, as in Psalm 55:22(NIV): "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you."
- **Act in Faith:** Take steps of obedience, however small, as the man did by picking up his mat. This might mean forgiving someone, seeking help, or trusting God's provision in a practical way.

- **Trust His Timing:** The 38-year wait didn't negate God's power. Meditate on Philippians 4:13(NIV)—“I can do all this through him who gives me strength”—to stay resilient while waiting for change.

- **Embrace Holistic Change:** Like the man's encounter in the temple, ask Jesus to transform not just your external circumstances but your heart and habits, aligning with 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Encouragement for Your Spirit

Knowing that Jesus can change your circumstances, as He did for the man in John 5, uplifts your spirit by:

- **Igniting Hope:** The suddenness of the man's healing shows Christ can act swiftly, even after years of struggle, giving you hope that change is possible.

- **Affirming God's Care:** Jesus' personal approach to the man assures you that He sees and cares about your specific situation, combating feelings of abandonment.

- **Empowering Resilience:** The promise of Philippians 4:13 and Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)—“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength”—gives you strength to endure, knowing Christ's power sustains you.

- **Inspiring a New Future:** The man's life was never the same, pointing to a new beginning. This encourages you to envision a transformed life through Christ, beyond your current challenges. Your circumstances, no matter how long-standing or severe, are not beyond Jesus' reach. His power, compassion, and purpose can bring healing, provision, or restoration, just as they did for the man at Bethesda.

The cornerstone of this belief comes from Matthew 19:26 (NIV), where Jesus declares, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

The belief that “all things are possible with Jesus Christ” is a powerful

truth rooted in the New Testament, with echoes in the Old Testament, that can deeply encourage your spirit during difficult circumstances. This conviction draws from the assurance of God's limitless power, His faithfulness, and the transformative work of Jesus Christ, which together provide hope, strength, and confidence to persevere. Below is an explanation grounded in key New Testament passages, interwoven with a few Old Testament scriptures, to illustrate this truth and its uplifting impact on your spirit.

New Testament Foundation: All Things Are Possible Through Christ

The cornerstone of this belief comes from Matthew 19:26 (NIV), where Jesus declares, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This statement follows the discussion of the rich young ruler, where human effort alone fails to achieve salvation or overcome worldly obstacles. Jesus emphasizes that God's power transcends human limitations, and through Him, what seems impossible becomes achievable. For you, this means that no matter how insurmountable your circumstances appear—whether financial struggles, health issues, or relational challenges—Christ's divine power can work beyond human constraints, giving you hope to press forward.

Similarly, Philippians 4:13 (NIV) states, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Paul, writing from prison, reflects on enduring hardships like hunger and need, yet he finds confidence through Christ's strength. This verse assures you that Jesus empowers you to face any trial, not through your own ability but through His sustaining grace. Knowing this can lift your spirit by shifting your focus from your weaknesses to Christ's infinite strength, encouraging resilience and trust.

In Mark 9:23 (NIV), Jesus tells a desperate father seeking healing for his son, "'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." Here, Jesus ties possibility to faith in Him. Your belief in Christ's power connects you to God's ability to work miracles, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. This encourages your spirit by reminding you that faith in Jesus opens the door to divine intervention, fostering hope even in dire situations.

Old Testament Echoes: God's Power and Faithfulness

The New Testament's emphasis on God's limitless power builds on Old Testament promises of His faithfulness and might. For example, **Jeremiah 32:17**(NIV) declares, "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." This verse, spoken during a time of impending exile, affirms God's sovereignty over creation and history. For your spirit, this reinforces that the same God who created the universe is active in your life through Jesus, capable of overcoming any obstacle, which instills confidence and peace.

Similarly, **Isaiah 40:29-31** (NIV) promises, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..." This passage prefigures the strength Christ provides in the New Testament. It encourages your spirit by assuring you that, through faith in Jesus, God renews your energy and lifts you above your struggles, much like an eagle soaring above storms.

How This Encourages Your Spirit

Knowing that all things are possible through Jesus Christ uplifts your spirit in several ways:

1. Shifts Focus from Impossibility to Possibility: The promise of Matthew 19:26 and Mark 9:23 redirects your attention from the size of your problems to the greatness of God's power. When your circumstances feel overwhelming, these verses remind you that Jesus can work beyond human limits, fostering hope and reducing despair. Your spirit is encouraged because you're not relying on your own strength but on Christ's infinite capability.

2. Strengthens Faith Through God's Faithfulness: The Old Testament passages, like Jeremiah 32:17, connect God's historical faithfulness to His work through Jesus. This continuity reassures you that the God who delivered Israel is the same God working in your life today through Christ. This builds confidence, knowing that God's track record of faithfulness extends to your situation, encouraging steadfastness.

3. Empowers Perseverance: Philippians 4:13 and Isaiah 40:29-31

emphasize that Christ's strength sustains you through trials. This knowledge energizes your spirit, replacing exhaustion with renewed determination. You can keep going, not because of your own resolve, but because Jesus provides the power to endure, making your challenges feel less daunting.

4. Fosters Trust in God's Plan: Romans 8:28(NIV) adds, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This New Testament promise assures you that, through Christ, even your difficulties are part of God's redemptive plan. Your spirit is lifted by the confidence that Jesus is weaving your struggles into a greater purpose, encouraging you to trust Him rather than give up.

5. Anchors You in God's Presence: The Old Testament's Psalm 46:1 (NIV), "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble," complements the New Testament's assurances of Christ's nearness (e.g., Hebrews 13:5: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"). Knowing Jesus is with you in every trial calms your fears and bolsters your spirit, giving you the courage to face challenges without feeling abandoned.

Practical Encouragement for Your Circumstances

To apply this truth, meditate on these scriptures daily, perhaps memorizing Philippians 4:13 or Matthew 19:26 to recall in tough moments. Pray for faith to trust Jesus' power, asking Him to reveal His strength in your situation. Reflect on past times when God has worked in your life, connecting them to these promises to build confidence. For example, if you're facing a financial crisis, Mark 9:23 reminds you to believe in Christ's ability to provide, while Isaiah 40:31 encourages you to wait on Him for renewed strength.

Commentary on Main Scriptures

Hebrew 10:19-20

10:19-20 Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh). Hebrews

now applies the doctrines that have been discussed up to this point. These verses summarize the argument in the first ten chapters, focusing on 8:1–2 and its further explanation in 9:1–10:18. The phrase “Therefore, my friends” in essence says, “In light of all Christ has provided, let us ...” What has Christ provided? Through his death on our behalf, we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus. The word for “enter” used here in Greek (*parresia*) means admission, authorization for access. Believers have access to the heavenly sanctuary; that is, they have free access to God. Christ now sits at God’s right hand as our High Priest in this heavenly sanctuary (see 6:19–20; 8:1–2; 9:11–12, 24).

Christians can now enter this Most Holy Place with boldness by the blood of Jesus. The “blood” refers to Jesus giving his life for us (see 9:12, 14; 10:19, 29; 12:24; 13:12, 20). This encouragement for boldness is remarkable because, under the old covenant, the Most Holy Place was sealed from view by a curtain. Only the high priest could enter this holy room. This he would do only once a year on the Day of Atonement when he offered the sacrifice for the nation’s sins. The curtain represented the mystery of God’s holiness because only the consecrated priest could go behind it. In a similar way, we cannot have access to God without the appropriate sacrifices and cleansing from sin. But Jesus’ death in his human body (flesh) removed the curtain. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple (which had replaced the tabernacle) tore from top to bottom (Mark 15:38), thereby unveiling the glorious reality that believers now have free access to God. More than just the curtain was torn; Christ’s body was also torn. As Christ’s body was torn in his excruciating death on the cross, people received access to God. Through his flesh Jesus opened the new and living way. He truly was “the way” itself (John 14:6). This way was “new” because it had not existed before; it was new because this was the “new covenant,” opening the way to fellowship with God. Because of Christ, all believers may walk into God’s presence at any time (4:16).

Do not miss the amazing reality in these words. We believers have access to God—the sovereign king of the universe! When was the last time you utilized the full value of this privilege? The presence and closeness of God is available to you.

Mark 9:23

Jesus' Words: "‘If you can’?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

This verse occurs during the healing of a boy with an evil spirit (Mark 9:14–29). The boy's father, desperate for help, says to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us" (Mark 9:22). Jesus responds by challenging the father's doubt, emphasizing that faith in God opens the door to divine possibilities. The phrase "everything is possible" does not mean believers can have anything they want but highlights that God's power is limitless for those who trust in him. The father's response, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24), shows a mix of faith and doubt, which Jesus graciously accepts, healing the boy. This teaches that even imperfect faith, when directed to God, can lead to miracles.

Application: This verse encourages believers to approach God with faith, even when doubts linger. It's a reminder that God's power is not limited by human weakness, and sincere faith, however small, can connect us to his limitless possibilities. In daily life, this means trusting God in difficult situations, like illness or hardship, and asking for help to strengthen our faith.

Mark 10:27

Jesus' Words: "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

This statement follows Jesus' teaching about the difficulty of a rich person entering the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23–26). The disciples, stunned by Jesus' declaration that wealth can hinder salvation, ask, "Who then can be saved?" (Mark 10:26). Jesus responds by contrasting human inability with God's limitless power. Salvation, especially for those reliant on wealth or self-effort, is impossible by human means. However, God can transform hearts and overcome any barrier, making salvation possible. The phrase "all things are possible with God" emphasizes God's sovereignty and ability to accomplish what humans cannot, particularly in matters of spiritual

transformation.

Application: This verse reassures believers that God can do what seems impossible, such as changing stubborn hearts or overcoming life's challenges. It calls us to rely on God's grace for salvation and personal growth, rather than our own efforts. In practical terms, it encourages trust in God when facing obstacles—whether financial, relational, or spiritual—knowing his power transcends human limitations.

Connection Between the Verses:

Both Mark 9:23 and Mark 10:27 emphasize the theme of divine possibility. In Mark 9:23, Jesus highlights that faith in God unlocks his power to act in our lives, as seen in the healing of the boy. In Mark 10:27, he broadens this to salvation itself, showing that God's power makes the impossible possible, even in the most unlikely cases. Together, they call believers to trust in God's limitless ability, whether for immediate needs (like healing) or eternal ones (like salvation).

Jesus' words do not mean that we can automatically obtain anything we want if we just think positively. Jesus meant that anything is possible if we believe because nothing is too difficult for God, even when our experience seems to indicate otherwise. We cannot have everything for which we pray as if by magic; but with faith, we can have everything we need to serve Christ. We are free to ask whatever we want, as long as we realize that God will answer according to his will (1 John 3:21-22; 5:14). When we will what he wills, then we truly will have the mind of Christ and can ask anything, being assured of God's answers (see also John 14:13-14; 15:7).

"I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred." The man indirectly answered Jesus by telling how he had not been able to be healed because others would get into the water before he did. But in making this statement, the man admitted that

he needed help. His hope for healing was stuck behind his hopelessness of ever having help to get to the water in time.

BOTTOMED OUT

The paralyzed man had one important trait that many people lack: He knew he needed help. Not only was he unable to help himself, he also hadn't been able to persuade anyone else to help him. Apparently the religious leaders who were so quick to judge his failure to keep their Sabbath laws had not been nearly as quick to obey God's clear Old Testament commands about helping those in need.

In contrast, we are surrounded with so many supports and buffers that we may live without ever facing our inability to save ourselves. Jesus didn't choose the ones who were pushing forward; rather, he went directly to the person who had almost given up hope. He went to a desperate person who didn't have to be convinced he needed help. The paralyzed man had reached the end of his rope and was ready to respond. Does God have to wait until we are desperate before he hears from us?

Jesus offered help, but not the kind of help the man expected. Jesus simply said, **"Rise, take up your bed and walk."** And the man responded immediately.

5:9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The action of carrying his mat represented this man's freedom and became the occasion for others to impose limitations. This miracle should have revealed to the Jews in Jerusalem that the Messiah was finally present, for Isaiah had prophesied, "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy" (Isaiah 35:5-6 NIV). Instead, they chose to focus on another issue: The day on which this took place was a Sabbath. Presumably, if the waters had been stirred on the Sabbath and he had been healed by getting in, the Jews would not have argued against his healing. But these religious leaders would not allow God in the flesh to break their rules by healing this man directly. We wonder how anyone could be so closed to God's working. But how often do our preconceived notions of how God's work should be done get in the way of it getting done!

5:10 So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” There is nothing in God’s law to prohibit a person from carrying a mat on the Sabbath. God’s law says: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work” (Exodus 20:8–10 NKJV). Carrying a mat on the Sabbath did not break any Old Testament law; instead, it broke the Pharisees’ legalistic application of God’s command. The regulation against carrying something on the Sabbath was the last of thirty-nine rules in the “tradition of the elders” that stipulated the kinds of work prohibited on the Sabbath. This was just one of hundreds of rules the Jewish leaders had added to the Old Testament law.

SEVEN SABBATH MIRACLES

The religious leaders had created a law that people could not heal on the Sabbath because “healing” was “work.” Seven times Jesus healed people on the Sabbath. In doing this, he was challenging the religious leaders to look beyond God’s command regarding the Sabbath to its true purpose—to honor God by helping people in need. Would God have been pleased if Jesus had ignored these needy people?

Jesus sends a demon out of a man (Mark 1:21–28)

Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law (Mark 1:29–31)

Jesus heals a lame man (John 5:1–18)

Jesus heals a man with a shriveled hand (Mark 3:1–6)

Jesus restores a crippled woman (Luke 13:10–17)

Jesus heals a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1–6)

Jesus heals a man born blind (John 9:1–16)

We must not take the mind-set of the Pharisees in our church practice. But some still rely on “oral traditions” or “principles handed down” that don’t come from Scripture. Such legislature can hinder true service to God. The Bible does not stipulate what we can’t do on Sunday; it does not dictate the denomination we worship in; it does not specify the kind of Christian music we use to worship God. Where the Bible does not specify rules, we should not either.

5:11–13 “The man who made me well said ...” The man who was healed had no idea who it was. In this exchange between

the man who was healed and the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, the man said he didn't know who had healed him. The man's ignorance is quite possible, for Jesus had not identified himself and had immediately slipped away into the crowd. At the same time, however, the healed man seemed to be more eager to blame the healer for having him walk around with his mat than to shout about his healing. The man should have found out who healed him.

When God touches our body to heal us, we must not be so preoccupied with the miracle or even the relief from pain that we neglect to seek him out, thank him, and believe in him.

Acts 3

PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR / 3:1-11

Commissioned by Christ to preach the gospel to all the earth (Matthew 28:18-20), the apostles had his authority. Miracles such as healing the sick (9:34; 19:11-12; 28:8), liberating the demon possessed (5:16; 8:7), even raising the dead (9:36-42; 20:7-12) highlighted their ministries. These supernatural signs authenticated the message being preached and drew people to the Savior. The first eleven verses record a miracle. Peter's ensuing sermon explains the point of the miracle, particularly for the Jewish audience who witnessed it.

3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. The Jews observed three times of prayer—morning (9:00 A.M.), afternoon (3:00 P.M.), and evening (sunset). At these times devout Jews and Gentiles who believed in God often would go to the temple to pray. Peter and John were going to the temple at 3:00 P.M.

Note, too, that Peter and John were still living, for the most part, as obedient Jews, keeping the appointed times of prayer, though they now had a significantly different mission.

3:2-3 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw

Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. The apostles were in the habit of going to prayer at the temple at the set times (3:1); likewise, this lame beggar was in the habit of begging there at these times. Both verb tenses are imperfect, setting forth the idea of regular, habitual action—each day they “were going” up to pray; each day he “was being put” beside the Temple gate.

Beggars would often wait in places where they would have the most traffic—such as along the roads near cities or, as here, at the entrance to the temple. The Beautiful Gate was one of the favored entrances into the temple complex, and many people passed through it on their way to worship. Since giving money to beggars was considered praiseworthy in the Jewish religion, the lame man wisely had himself placed where he could catch the almsgivers headed both to and from religious gatherings. As Peter and John entered the temple area, the lame man called out to them and asked them for some money.

TIME TO PRAY

The Jews had set times of prayer, but the clear teaching (and example) of the New Testament is that believers are to be in a spirit of prayerfulness at all times. Our lives should be one long running conversation with the Father. (Verses quoted from NLT.)

Scripture: Romans 1:9–10

Command: “Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God.”

Scripture: Ephesians 6:18

Command: “Pray at all times and on every occasion ... be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.”

Scripture:Colossians 1:3**

****Command:** “We always pray for you”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Command: “We ... pray for you constantly.”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Command: “We will never stop thanking God.”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Command: “Keep on praying.”

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3

Command: “Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.”

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

Peter and John had made plans to attend a three o'clock prayer service. Perhaps they hoped to share their new faith with some old friends. Or maybe they wanted to make contact with one of the other apostles. As busy religious leaders on an important religious mission, they might have brushed off the lame beggar who accosted them at the temple gate for a handout. But Peter and John recognized the sovereign nature of this encounter. In the name of Christ (and by his power), they healed the beggar. This precipitated a series of evangelistic opportunities that no one—except God—could have predicted. Be careful that you don't get so preoccupied with doing God's work that you miss God's will right before your eyes.

Usually disabled in some way, beggars were unable to work for a living. Medical help was not available for their problems, and people tended to ignore their obligation to care for the needy (Leviticus 25:35–37). Thus, beggars had little hope of escaping their degrading way of life. For this lame man, begging was his only means of support.

The man's crippled condition is a picture of the hopeless condition of the sinner (see Romans 5:6; Ephesians 2:12). The healing that follows is a picture of what Christ, the Great Physician, can do in the face of hopelessness.

3:4–6 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. Then Peter said,

“Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” In this powerful scene, Peter and John looked straight at the beggar. The term for “looked straight” is *atenisas*—it speaks of intensity (see 1:10; 23:1). Peter demanded the man’s attention, and the beggar gave them his attention, obviously anticipating a handout. What was offered, however, was not what the man was seeking (silver or gold), but rather something far more valuable. Peter, having no money to offer the man, nor the power in himself to heal him, commanded the beggar to walk. Note that the command was not by Peter’s authority but rather in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. In the Jewish mind-set, the name of an individual stood for all that a person was. A name was more than a label; instead, it represented that person’s being and carried his or her authority. By calling on the “name of Jesus Christ,” Peter was calling on Christ’s power and authority. Therefore, to walk “in the name of Jesus Christ” meant to walk “by the authority of Jesus Christ.” The apostles were doing this healing through the Holy Spirit’s power given to them by Christ, not their own (see Luke 10:17).

GOD’S BEST

The crippled man asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better—the use of his legs. We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. When we ask God for help, he may say, “I’ve got something even better for you.” Ask God for what you want, but don’t be surprised when he gives you what you really need.

3:7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and anklebones were healed and strengthened. To encourage the lame man to begin walking, Peter reached for him to help him up. The terms that follow here reflect Dr. Luke’s medical orientation—the man’s feet and anklebones, which to this point had never been able to support the man, were healed and strengthened. The description here pictures a complete healing (the word “strengthened” comes from a Greek medical term—*estereothesan*—used elsewhere in Greek literature in reference to sockets being reset).

3:8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. It did not take the man long to realize that indeed he was healed. Not only could he stand, but he also immediately tried out his new legs at full throttle, moving quickly from standing, to beginning to walk, to ultimately leaping. This healed beggar was aware that the source of his healing was not Peter but God. In the midst of his excitement and this obviously emotional moment, he praised God, who had given him a new lease on life.

THANKING PEOPLE, PRAISING GOD

In his excitement the formerly crippled man began to jump and walk around. Then he also began praising God! As he did, those who recognized him were awed by this obvious display of God's power. This scene is a good reminder of the importance of recognizing the true source of our blessings. God often uses people to be the vessels through whom he works; consequently, we should thank those who help us. But we should reserve our praise for the God who is behind every "good and perfect" gift (James 1:17).

3:9-10 All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. This must have been some scene. The beggar, known for years for his crippled condition (they recognized him as the one) danced into the temple area with words of praise to God. There could be no doubt about who he was or about what had happened. Nor could there be any doubt about whom the beggar thought should get the credit for the miracle. The people, quite appropriately, were filled with wonder and amazement.

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, (1) Logos Bible Program, Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Guzik, David, Life Application Bible Commentary, Factbook Logos bible, Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995, Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Barton, Bruce B. 1996, Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Barton, Bruce B., David Veerman, Linda Chaffee Taylor, and Philip

Wesley Comfort. 1997. Hebrews. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers. Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Acts. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Barton, Bruce B. 1993. John & Mark

Sermon Notes:

Happy Sunday, AVC Family... And Welcome to those joining us Online this Morning/Afternoon...

Here are the AVC Connections so you don't miss anything... Real Quick:

- YouTube
- App
- Facebook/Website

[Let's Pray]

We are in a Summer Sermon Series titled: In His Footsteps.

In this Series, I have been showing you how the Early Church & Christians followed & did the stuff Jesus displayed in the Gospels...

It's very important to understand that at Christ's Death, the Veil of the curtain in the Temple was torn in half...

Listen to this Theological Reflection on this Biblical Fact about the Veil: The tearing of the veil signified that the barrier between God and humanity was removed through Jesus' sacrifice. Previously, the Holy of Holies is where God's presence dwelled and was accessible only to the high priest once a year. Jesus' death opened direct access to God for all believers, emphasizing the new covenant through him. (We have direct access to Jesus - Amen)

In Hebrews 10:19-20, it is further explained:

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain" ...

Hear this and understand it... We as Christians have Direct Access to the Holy Spirit because of Jesus...

This is why Signs and Wonders and Miracles still happen today...

I have said this before... but I'm going to say it again... If you're not Praying Big... Don't Expect anything Big to happen...

This is why we read about Jesus bringing pieces of heaven to Earth... While He was with us...

As the Song declares, Titled: "I Know a Name" - Dead things Come Alive in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

All things are possible with Jesus Christ... BUT sometimes Life doesn't feel that way...

I mean when you have a Monkey on your Back... or Something that has Hindered or Debilitated your life, it's hard to stay Positive...

I have shared this before, but I felt led by the Holy Spirit to share it again... (Story of Anxiety & Depression)

• I know some of our AVC Family are in the Middle of Debilitating Life Circumstances Right now... (You're asking God for Breakthroughs)

Some of you feel your Backs are against the wall... You may have thrown in the towel on your situation...

You may be thinking... Nothing is ever going to change... (Stop listening to the lies of Satan)

Hear the Good News of Jesus... All things can change through the Power of Jesus...

When we open God's Word, we hear Jesus himself say this:

Mark 10:27 - Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Jesus said this to a Father seeking healing for his son...

Mark 9:23 - “‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

God’s Angel named Gabriel proclaimed:

Luke 1:37 - “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Apostle Paul declares:

Philippians 4:13 - I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

In John 5, there is a story of a Man who laid at the Pool of Bethesda (Place of Mercy)

Let’s turn to Acts 3:1-10 - Our Main Text for Today... We read about a very similar story... Following the Footsteps of Christ...

[Read Acts 3:1-10]

As we move to a Close this morning... I believe the Holy Spirit wants to move in some of your Lives and Situations...

In the Bible, Water represents a Metaphor for the Holy Spirit Presence...

Jesus said in John 7:38-39: “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Devotional Questions

Please read the following passages and answer the devotional questions:

1. What did Jesus have to say about all things being possible? Read Mark 10:27 & Mark 9:23?

2.What did the Angel Gabriel say about God’s abilities? Read Mark 1:37?

3.What did Apostle Paul proclaim (a man who faced death & beatings on multiple occasions) Philippians 4:13

4.Read John 5:1-15... did this guy have a good reason to give up ... but who and what changed everything; does this give you encouragement?

5. Did the Early Church follow what Jesus said and done in the Gospels... Read Acts 3:1-10. Does this build your faith and spirit... how so?