

Intro: (PJohn)

- I. **Quick Question: How many people have ever been in the right place at the right time??** ( Car wash story) Today you are!
  - A. Today I want to look at a story that's kind of like that
  - B. Turn with me to **Acts 3:1: 3** Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him<sup>1</sup>
  - C. Come on, How awesome is this
  - D. This guy is lame from Birth and God does this awesome Miracle in His Life
  - E. Many people could say, Right Place at the Right time, but that would imply Luck;
  - F. Come on this is a Great Picture of the Faithfulness of God! And The **Commitment** to Follow God and Help people by Peter and John
- A. **When I was praying about service this weekend I was super inspired by that story; God using 2 ordinary people in an extraordinary way;**
  - A. And that's what I want to talk about Today; using this story as a

background; I want to talk about **Fully Committing** ourselves to God this fall

- B. When you read through the bible; particularly the Book of Acts; you see God use his followers to radically impact a fallen world
  - C. Those early believers, not just Apostles, turned the world upside down with their Love, Obedience, and Their Commitment to Jesus
  - D. **That's what the United States Needs right; a 180 degree shift back to Jesus!!**
- II. Listen, you don't have to be a sociologist or a Prophet to know that our world is fallen and has problems
- A. And the solution is the Church; **The Empowered, Committed, Awakened, Church of Jesus Christ!!**
  - B. Right Now, more than ever, if we profess to be Christians; we can't be wishy washy or asleep, of ½ in, or disengaged!!
  - C. WE must be **Committed!!!!**
  - D. So again, using this story as a backdrop, I want to talk about 3 Things we must be committed to this Fall!!
  - E. We will never get this time back, I know we are busy; school, sports, kids, soccer, football, work.....
  - F. But our Commitment to Christ this fall must be paramount!!
  - G. And if it is; we will see God do great things, and We will reap great rewards here now; and in Eternity!
  - H. **Pray.....**
  - I. **( this isn't exhaustive; but 3 practical Things we must be Committed to Right now; That we all can Do!!)**
- III. **Ok, first thing we must be Committed to this fall is; Doing the Right Things!! ( Got to do the right thing)**
- A. Ok; let's think about the story; Think about Peter and John
  - B. **What put them in the position to be used great by God? Doing the right thing; simply Going to Church**

- C. These dudes are simply on the way to Church; They are committed to Church
  - D. They aren't headed to the Party; they aren't headed to cheat on their wives..... They are going to Church
  - E. **In lives of believers that I see make an impact for God; once of the constant things that I notice is the Commitment to do the right thing, even when its Hard!!!**
  - F. Not perfect; but in business, in marriage, with their kids, with their walk with Jesus; they commit to doing the right thing
  - G. Quickly I want to look at **3 Right Things** we must be committed to doing right now!!
- IV. **#1 is our Consistent walk with Jesus** ( This is reading/ praying/ going to church/ worshiping/fasting)
- A. You and I aren't going to do much for God or people if we don't have the daily discipline and Lifestyle of Walking with Jesus
  - B. Its clear in scripture we are called to have a close walk with The Lord
  - C. **1Thessalonians 5:17:**<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,
  - D. **2 Timothy 2:15:**<sup>5</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.<sup>2</sup>
  - E. **Hebrews 10:25;**<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.<sup>3</sup>
  - F. **1 Chronicles 16:29:** 29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;<sup>4</sup>
  - G. **Matthew 6:16** 16 "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.
- V. Remember Daniel:..... He was Consistent in his walk with Jesus...

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- A. A Good question to ask ourselves: are we?? Is our walk with God consistent?
  - B. If Not; Lets Go: Get up Early, Go to bed Later, pray during your drive to work
  - C. Its 2021; we have been saved for : 1, 5, 10-20-30 years; we must commit to a healthy, consistent, Walk with Jesus!!
  - D. Here is why; Because its Jesus that brings fulfillment, its Him that brings Peace
  - E. Lets be honest; when we spend time with God in the morning; how many people know that day is better?????
- VI. The 2<sup>nd</sup> right thing we must do is: **Grow in our faith/** grow in our walk with God
- A. Last Week; Our Church took a Mission Trip to the Jungle in Mexico
  - B. **Gabe...**(coming to morning prayer, then praying, going on this trip and giving a word to the church.. Im proud of him; He has been growing..... (still a knucklehead.)
  - C. As a believer we are called to Grow
  - D. **Luke 2;52;** 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
- VII. We are called to grow and mature;
- A. At some point in time we have to spiritually mature
  - B. We have to be the ones that can point people to Jesus
  - C. We have to be the ones operating in the Fruits of the Spirit
  - D. We have to be the ones that can defend our faith
  - E. We have to be the ones that don't flip off the person on the road!!
  - F. We must mature;
  - G. At some point in time: we have to be the ones to Lead people to Christ
  - H. We have to be the ones showing Mercy and Kindness
  - I. At some point in time: we have to be the ones that Serve; or lead a life Group??? Right
  - J. If not us who????

**VIII. Let me tell you who in this story Grew; Peter**

- A. Denying Jesus, Cussing, back Fishing
- B. To the Leader of the Early Church
- C. When I think of a Picture of growth; I think about Zach.....
- D. Lets Grow; That's why we Have Small groups/ Foundation classes; so we can all grow; that's why we have kidsZone and PH, and a College Ministry... so we can grow!!!!

**IX. The 3d Right thing we must do is: Fight to not fall into Sin**

- A. Remember what we pray in the Lords Prayer in regard to temptation?

**B. Lead me Away from Temptation**

- C. If we want to make a difference in this Day and Age; we must be committed to not falling into sin or living a sinful lifestyle
- D. **1John 3: 6:** 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.
- E. Compare Joseph and David for a moment
- F. Both did great things for God; But compare their battle against Lust:
- G. Joseph ran from it; David embraced it

**X. If we want to be fully committed this year; we must first simple live a lifestyle of doing the right things biblically and abstaining from the bad things**

- A. And before we move on; we realize that this really is one of the factors that separates; Real Christians from Fake in my Opinion
- B. We are called to be different; Word and Deed, Belief and Action
- C. And who determines right or wrong? Culture that changes everyday?? No God.....
- D. If The 200 million professing Christians in America Committed to do the right thing Biblically; things would change

E. Do you know what the Cure for Wokeism is ? Born Againism?  
Repenting and Living for Jesus

F. *Ok, that's Point #1; Lets be committed to doing the right things:  
following Jesus, Fighting Sin!*

G. Lets move on!!!

**XI. The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing we must be fully committed to this Fall: Seeing People and Helping**

A. think about this man's life for a minute:

B. Crippled from Birth ( How tough.....)

C. Couldn't go to Church; let me explain ( Jewish Law)

D. This guy had a major need

E. Think about it; How easy would it have been to just walk by this guy?

F. "Come on John, we are running late, we got to speak at church today"

**XII. No; They Saw this Man!!**

A. You know the guy looked bad, How do you think his hair looks? What about his teeth? What about his clothes? What about his fingernails?

B. They looked bad

**C. So not only does Peter and John see the Man; But they SEE the MAN!! They Notice Him;;;**

D. And because they see the man, they must help him

E. And you know what: the man had 2 needs: #1 he was poor, #2 He was Lame

F. They couldn't meet the Financial \$ need, but they could meet the other..

**XIII. I truly believe that This is a Fall that we must be committed to seeing People and meeting needs**

A. Quick cool story; **Vaca Story**; how awesome!!!

**B. Come on; The Lame man in the story couldn't get to church, so the Church went to him**

- C. This fall the Church must go to hurting, broken, Lost, sick, people in our City
- D. Does that mean we need to send a COTR Van out everyone; maybe more than we do, But NO; that means you and I Go
- E. WE are called to Go, and SEE, and Pray, and Believe, and Help people

XIV. This blows my mind: think about this; How did Jesus send out his Disciples?

- A. Look at **Matthew 10**: 10 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction, Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles.. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.
- B. Did Jesus tell them to gather everyone up and bring them to Church, so he could Heal them? NO
- C. He told the Disciples to Go! Later he told the 70 to do the same thing

XV. Now do we want to bring people to church? Yes!

- A. But we must be committed to; Seeing, and Ministering to people
- B. I think to some degree our mindset in America has to change from: to Go and Find
- C. Everyday we should be on a Mission to Find those hurting and in need
- D. That's what Jesus Parables in Luke 15 is all about; Go and Find that which is lost!!! Sheep/ coin/ Prodigal Son
- E. We are called to Go and Find.... We are called to See...**
- F. And that's what we must do this Fall!!**

XVI. If your not careful, It can be easy to overlook a very important event that happened right before Peter and John encountered this man

- A. Do you remember what Happened in **Acts 2: 1** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
  - B. So the Chapter before both Peter and John and the other 118 people are filled with the Holy Spirit
  - C. What else does Jesus say about being filled with the Holy Spirit:**
  - D. **Acts 1:8:** 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
  - E. So; in my opinion, why did Peter and John Notice the guy? Why were they so bold? They had just been filled with the Holy Spirit
  - F. Maybe that’s why they noticed the man that day and not before??
  - G. If you have never asked the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit, Do It!!
- XVII. Before we move on to the final point, I believe the Lord wants to help us this fall do this:
- A. I want to give us all some practical ways to do this  
**3 things that will help us Commit to Seeing and Helping People**
  - B. **#1 Pray** for eyes to see the Harvest ( starbucks, target, ballfield)
  - C. **#2 Make a Hit list** ( who do you know that needs Jesus...relatives, classmates, supermarket workers.....) ( You know this is what companies do)
  - D. **#3 Set a goal** to have at least 1 conversations a day about Jesus..
  - E. **#4 Witness** to at least 1 person a week!
  - F. Come on we must be intentional; We must see people, WE must help people
  - G. Listen; you don’t have to be perfect to be used by God... Start Now
  - H. You know what happens right after this man is healed? Peter preaches and 3000 are Saved!!!! Our obedience To God opens the door for Great things to Happen!! Our Compassion our Care opens the door for God to great things



## I. Texas High Outreach 2011

### **XVIII. Ok, Final Point: This Fall we must be Committed to Sacrificing when God calls us too**

- A. If we think about it; Sacrifice is a cuss word in America... No one wants to sacrifice if they don't have to...
  - B. The opposite of Sacrifice is Excess.. WE want more than; Not less than!
  - C. Think about Peter and John; what are they sacrificing???
  - D. They are sacrificing their time.. They are trying to go somewhere, this was an interruption
  - E. They are also sacrificing some pride.. They didn't pray a little prayer; They told the Dude to get up and Walk!!!
- XIX. Listen, this has to be a Fall that we are willing to commit to Sacrifice when God calls us too
- A. Somehow in America we have got this backward " if we are Christians then our life is suppose to be easy( name it and clame it)
  - B. problem is you can't find a Godly character in the Bible that didn't sacrifice to get close to God or to help people
  - C. Think about Esther..... Abrham..... Paul..... Elisha (plow)**
  - D. Ive been reading this Awesome book about the Persecuted Church; Story from book ( you don't have to come back)**
  - E. That's Sacrifice
  - F. Are we willing to Sacrifice this Fall??
  - G. I know its not fun; but what if your sacrifice gets you closer to God, what if your sacrifice gets your kids closer to God, what if your sacrifice leads someone to Christ or helps someone???
- XX. *Practically speaking: How can we Sacrifice this fall:*
- A. There are 3 areas that we can sacrifice in: Time, Talent, Treasure**
  - B. Time:** This must be a fall we sacrifice our Time: Time to be with Jesus, Time to pray for a person in need, time to help change that Flat, or

mow that Widows yard, time to go to that Group or Class and Learn and Grow so you can help more people..

- XXI. **Talent:** Sacrificing your talent looks like: what our Musicians and sound people, camera lights, kids workers, on and on
- C. **Do you have a talent?** Teaching, baking, welding, mowing, business?? Sure; How can you use that talent to help people?
  - D. **I know people in our Church that have lawn Care business and they mow some Widows homes for free.....** I know ladies at this church that cook for people when they are sick
  - E. **What are they doing? Giving their talent to God... Sacrificing for others**

**XXII. Finally Treasure; this is the 3d thing you can sacrifice: its your money**

- A. **Luke 8:** Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.
- B. Who helped fund Jesus ministry? So ladies they gave their treasure for Jesus and the Disciples
- C. Lets make this fall a fall where we sacrifice our treasure when God calls us to...
- D. That friend that is in a tough place, that missionary that is trying to build a church, that struggling Mom and kid
- E. This isn't a fall to be stingy.....

**Close:** AS I close today; This fall is all about Commitment!! Committing our self to get closer to Jesus, Committing our self to see people, and committing our self to sacrifice.....

- A. Can we do it? Yes! The Holy Spirit is going to help us

- B. You know years ago, I heard a pastor talk some about this story and it stuck with me
- C. Think back to the story; Where were the Disciples going when they encountered the Lame man?? Headed to the Temple? Temple where? Jersalem..
- D. Do you remember what happened about 50 days before this? Jesus death, Do you know what Jesus did the week before he was Crucified? Taught in the temple, cleansed the temple
- E. Who did Jesus probably see on the way into the temple?? Probably the lame man
- F. How many times did Jesus go to that Temple? Well He was Jewish, and lived in that area, so probably a lot
- G. So, I think he probably saw that man before, maybe just a few weeks before
- H. So why didn't he Heal him???**

XXIII. I think Jesus left him so in a few weeks after he has ascended, that his work would carry on through his followers

- A. This wasn't Jesus physically Healing the man, it was the Disciples through the Power of Jesus
- B. It's the same mandate for us today; God has people that he wants us to reach!
- C. Did you know that Jesus said in **John 14**; that because you believe in me; you will do greater works than me??
- D. Whats that mean; The Power of Jesus and the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in us; will reach and help
- E. What you do, and you do, and you do, and I do for the Kingdom will be more than what Jesus did on this earth!!!

XXIV. He wants us to Commit this year to be all about him and People

**A. And you know why Jesus can ask You and I to Commit to Him?  
Because He committed to us**

- B. He came to this Earth and Lived a perfect sinless life for us, and died a brutal death on the Cross for us!

C. This is the year to commit to him!

**D. Lets Pray**

The Man was Lame, He needed help, and listen all of us are Lame.....