

In many ways, the passage we have before us this morning is another version of the “Beauty and the Beast” story. It is the story of a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ and an ugly \_\_\_\_\_. It is the actual account of a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ and an unlovely \_\_\_\_\_. It is an account of different desires and divergent drives. It is an account of conflicting emotions and energies. But most of all, it is the account of the transforming \_\_\_\_\_ of the love of God. It is the story of the beauty of the Gospel and the beggar.

### Our Outline

- I. A \_\_\_\_\_ in Contrasts
- II. A \_\_\_\_\_ Condition
- III. A \_\_\_\_\_ Change

#### I. A Study in Contrasts Acts 3:1-5

- **A Contrast in \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 3:1 Have you ever considered what an unlikely \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and John were?

Here are \_\_\_\_\_ men as different in temperament and character as two \_\_\_\_\_ could be. We do not have to be carbon \_\_\_\_\_ of each other to be used of God. God made us the way we are; He does want to \_\_\_\_\_ us to be like Jesus, and He can use us as we yield to Him in every area of life.

- **A Contrast in \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 3:2 The second contrast is even more profound, for we are confronted at once with a picture of \_\_\_\_\_ beauty and a picture of great \_\_\_\_\_. On the one hand, we see the gate of the Temple, which is here called “\_\_\_\_\_.” And yet, sitting in the very shadow of this gate was the emaciated form of a \_\_\_\_\_ man. His \_\_\_\_\_ were malformed and misshapen, probably tiny and twisted. His misfortune had made him a pitiful sight and a poverty-stricken one. \_\_\_\_\_ had nothing to offer this man but a \_\_\_\_\_. What he needed was a leg up! What a contrast.

- **A Contrast in \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 3:3-6 The \_\_\_\_\_ here is remarkable, then, since the beggar and the Apostles both \_\_\_\_\_ this world’s goods. The beggar was looking to \_\_\_\_\_. He found a good spot, and there he sat begging. On the other hand, here were the Apostles, and they had \_\_\_\_\_ of earthly value to offer this needy man. But they were more than ready to freely \_\_\_\_\_ what they had.

#### II. A Sad \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:2 Having noted the big picture, let’s \_\_\_\_\_ on this beggar for he should be of great \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

- **The Man was \_\_\_\_\_** Acts 3:2 This poor man was born with a tragic \_\_\_\_\_ defect. His legs were probably deformed, \_\_\_\_\_, and twisted. They were far too small to carry the weight of his body. And the deformity was extremely obvious at a glance to anyone \_\_\_\_\_ by.

In fact, in the next \_\_\_\_\_, we find out: “For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.” Acts 4:22

In ancient \_\_\_\_\_, people who could not walk were viewed as morally and \_\_\_\_\_ defective. John 9:1-3

Disability itself was understood as \_\_\_\_\_, based on Old Testament law prohibiting those with congenital defects from serving in the Temple. New Testament Jews applied this priestly restriction to everyone, resulting in disabled people being forbidden from worshipping in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Peter’s healing of the lame beggar, performed in Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_, similarly challenged this punitive theology by demonstrating that disability could be an occasion for displaying God’s restorative power and \_\_\_\_\_ rather than evidence of divine condemnation.

- **The Man was** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:2 What is very clear as well is that this poor man was dependent on others, for he was \_\_\_\_\_.

His \_\_\_\_\_ and friends brought him there daily to \_\_\_\_\_, and his condition had been present since birth, suggesting a long-standing arrangement born of necessity.

The carriers benefited from whatever income the begging generated, whether they retained portions of the alms or simply avoided the \_\_\_\_\_ of supporting him otherwise. So, we cannot even be certain that anyone really \_\_\_\_\_ this lame man.

- **The Man was** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:2 This lame man was nothing more or less than a \_\_\_\_\_. He made his living, if you can call it that, off the \_\_\_\_\_ of others. He could not list a single asset on the divine ledger. There was nothing that commended him to \_\_\_\_\_ or to anyone else, for that matter, as we have already \_\_\_\_\_.

To be brutally \_\_\_\_\_, we all must come to God understanding that we are nothing and can do nothing to earn His \_\_\_\_\_. We must come depending solely on Him for salvation.

- III. **A Sudden** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:3-8 Fortunately, our account does not \_\_\_\_\_ with the sad picture of this man’s condition, because there is a sudden and wondrous \_\_\_\_\_ that takes place in this man’s life. In a very real sense, it illustrates how the grace of God transforms our lives.

- **He** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:3-5 There is an amazing amount of \_\_\_\_\_ language in this passage: “seeing Peter and John...fixing his eyes on him...look at us...he gave them his attention.”

On a practical level, the intense mutual \_\_\_\_\_ established a relational \_\_\_\_\_ between the apostles and the disabled man.

Additionally, the miracles in Acts function as “PowerPoints”—\_\_\_\_\_ demonstrations of God’s power at work in the community, combining \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to illustrate the power and capability of restoration that comes through the \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ emphasis on looking, fixing attention, and gazing \_\_\_\_\_ the healing into a visible proclamation that demands \_\_\_\_\_.

This man saw \_\_\_\_\_ men whose lives had been radically \_\_\_\_\_ by the grace of God.

But this we can assert, God is a God of grace. He is not working to make good men \_\_\_\_\_.

He, by grace, made \_\_\_\_\_ men live, and is making \_\_\_\_\_ men His children through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is taking ruined people and giving them new life, new hope, and new standing through the finished work of Christ on the cross.

- He was** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:6-7 Peter got to the \_\_\_\_\_ of this man's problem. He did not need social programs. He did not need a handout. He \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus Christ. This lame man's forty-year \_\_\_\_\_ suggests he may have at the very least, been in Jerusalem during Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ week, yet remained unhealed, demonstrating that proximity to Jesus and even witnessing His power did not automatically result in \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_, when the man was eventually healed by Peter, he leapt into the Court of the \_\_\_\_\_, the sanctuary proper. The court of the men had formerly been off-limits to him because of his physical \_\_\_\_\_. He had formerly been shut out of \_\_\_\_\_ with God in the Nation of Israel because of the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ around his handicap. What Judaism could \_\_\_\_\_ do for this man was completely \_\_\_\_\_ by this encounter with Peter and John. And this contrast is clearly \_\_\_\_\_ by those returning from \_\_\_\_\_ that afternoon. Judaism offered him pity and alms, \_\_\_\_\_ offered him a new life! Also, this suggests the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lame man's healing carried redemptive significance that would not have been present earlier. You see the nation \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_, discounted His claims, and put Him to death as a deceiver. However, now with Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead and ascended back to Heaven, Peter and John were demonstrating the \_\_\_\_\_ power of the Gospel of a risen Savior. In a sense, the healing of this lame man now contrasts the \_\_\_\_\_ difference between Jesus and Judaism.

Second, the man's healing by the apostles served a crucial apostolic \_\_\_\_\_. Of all the healing stories of \_\_\_\_\_, this one is the most like the healings of Jesus in the \_\_\_\_\_, though there is a major difference: Jesus healed by His own authority, while the apostles healed "in the name of \_\_\_\_\_". This healing authenticated apostolic \_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrated that Christ's power continued through His followers \_\_\_\_\_ the resurrection—a theological point that would have been less significant had Jesus healed the \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.
- He** \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 3:8 What a transformation! Only the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, through the ministry of the Apostles, could make those obviously twisted and deformed limbs straight. Only \_\_\_\_\_ could give strength to those weakened, atrophied ankles and muscles. And even if the equipment of healthy legs and ankles were restored to \_\_\_\_\_ health and strength, learning to walk, much less to \_\_\_\_\_, would be out of the question under normal circumstances. But this man not only received a physical healing but was able to walk, run, and leap about \_\_\_\_\_. When the Lord Jesus does something, He does it \_\_\_\_\_! More importantly, this man was able to \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ what \_\_\_\_\_ could never do for him.