



LEAVING EARTH “Giving People What They Need Most”

Acts 3:1-10
August 9, 2015

Infirm Man Was Incapable of...

- ✓ Earning a Living
- ✓ Enjoying Life Very Much
- ✓ Entering the Temple *Leviticus 21:16-21; Romans 5:2*

Intersections Brings Opportunity

Impart to Others What You Know and What You Have!

Give what you got! Jesus is Enough.

Invite Others to Rise and Walk

Incredible Miracles Occurs in the Name of Jesus

Acts 3:6,16; 4:7,10,12,17-18,30

Immediate Response of Worship Follows

Psalms 27:4; 84:10

Involved Fulfillment of Prophecy

Isaiah 35:5-6; Luke 7:22

Illustrates the Beautiful Picture of Salvation

- ✓ Impoverished

- ✓ Iniquity is Innate In Us
- ✓ Isolated from God
- ✓ Instantaneous and Complete
- ✓ Impossible Without Jesus
- ✓ Initiates Joy and Praise in You and in Others
- ✓ Identity Changes

In Need This Morning Of...

- ✓ In Need this Morning of a Touch of Jesus to Raise you to a new life. You simply need to follow the ABC Path to Jesus and He will take you by the hand and raise you up! **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
- ✓ **In Need of Courage** to make a decision public that you have become a Christ Follower and need to be baptized.
- ✓ **In Need of Wisdom** to know if this is the Church Family where you know you need to be connected, growing, committing and going.
- ✓ **In Need of some kind of Healing** in your life in the Powerful name of Jesus: Physically, Spiritually, Emotionally, Mentally, whatever it may be!
- ✓ **In Need of the Lord to make you more Aware of the Intersections** that are right before you every day and that we would take advantage of them. Where are some intersections in your daily life?
- ✓ **In Need of Boldness** to Impart to others what you know or give what you have – Jesus is Enough!
- ✓ **In Need of a Fresh Touch of Jesus** that brings about a response of worship, joy, and life change in you!
- ✓ **In Need of the Desire** to help invite others to rise and walk in their lives. (3Eleven Night; Big Brother/Big Sister; After School Tutoring; Backyard Bible Club, etc.)

THE ACTS: LEAVING EARTH

“Giving People What They Need the Most”

Acts 3:1-10

August 9, 2015 AM Service

Leaving Earth – we have been building on that idea of space, and rockets, and NASA, and people doing something new that had never been done before and the risk and revolution that it was. These people were jumping on a rocket if you will called the Holy Spirit and going to a new place that had never been gone to before even to places eventually that were like new planets, they had never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When God wants to use us, He often gets us uncomfortable about where we are, and prepares to go to places that are new and different. So today, we want to talk about the disciples as they leave earth, they begin to turn the focus even more outward and begin to help others. We all want to help others, we want to make a difference in the lives of people, you do and I do, and be able to give them what they need the most – a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But sometimes in our lives we get busy, we get distracted, we lose focus, we forget, we get disconnected from what we were made to do – we were created to be in relationship with Jesus Christ, to worship Him and glorify Him and then to invite others to experience that same kind of joy and hope that only comes from our relationship with Christ. So I want to you invite each of you to join me and let’s leave this earth this morning!

Set the Scene - Probably other beggars around – Peter and John as was their custom were headed to the temple to pray late in the afternoon.

Infirm Man Was Incapable of...

- ✓ **Earning a Living** - had to beg – positioned himself at the perfect spot – at the Beautiful Gate where Jewish worshipers would enter to go into them temple and giving of alms was something any good pious Jew would do to impress others and God with their piety.
- ✓ **Enjoying Life Very Much** – crippled since birth – some 40 years – unable to walk – some of you can imagine that and most of us can’t. Seems very likely he had heard of Jesus and perhaps even the day of Pentecost and these follower of Jesus but nothing had changed for him but boy was that about to change in a big way!

✓ **Entering the Temple** *Leviticus 21:16-21; Romans 5:2* This is a huge piece that we will refer to later but take note he was outside the gate entering the temple. 40 years, the one place he longed to go, the temple where the presence of God resided, dwell was that temple. Never been in the most precious place that he longed to go. Why wasn't he allowed. Is it because God doesn't love people with defects? No. Remember the OT, is a foreshadowing of what was to come. It was a picture of what God was going to do, and then accomplish through the sending of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God set it up so that they would have a regard for the holy, perfect presence of Almighty God. One of those reminders will be is that nobody who is not perfect in a physical way can enter the temple.

Intersections Brings Opportunity

It is in the intersections of life that are critical that we must realize that many of these are huge opportunities to share and too often we drive them through without thinking of it! Are our eyes open to divine intersections or appointments?

Many times they are inconvenient, don't have enough time, doesn't make sense with what we have going on, doesn't fit into our schedule, Too often I choose my agenda over God's agenda by saying not now!

Look at me he says – I'll say the same – not give him change from his pocket that will be gone quickly but change for eternity that will never run out! I'm not going to give you what you want or even think you need, I'm going to give you what you really need that will satisfy your soul forever! It's like what Jesus said – I will give you living water and you will thirst no more. I am the bread of life – He who eats this bread will never be hungry again.

They had preached to large and huge crowds, but they also realized that one on one encounters with people is a must! They didn't miss the intersection, the moment, the opportunity to make a difference in this man's life that made the all the difference in His life for eternity!

Impart to Others What You Know and What You Have!

Give what you got! Jesus is Enough.

We have a lot of excuses of why we can't. I am not trained, I don't have it's not about I don't – It's about a willingness and a desire to be used!

Jesus wants to not just give you a fish for a day, but teach you to fish for a lifetime – how to live. We are not to be professional beggars!

Be a difference maker – Jesus wants to make a difference in us so that He can use us to make a difference in others – that’s our vision by the way – but He can’t use us if we are busy making excuses, or whining about what we don’t have or we are always on the take and focused on what we don’t have – it’s time for some to get up and walk in the name of Jesus – not by your strength and power, but by the strength and power of Jesus of Nazareth!

We need to stop procrastinating, stop making excuses, don’t have enough money, don’t have enough time, give what you have because Jesus enough. The power was not in the hand of Peter but in the name of Christ! Do we help those less fortunate, do we help people like we are going to do on our 3Eleven night, but far more important and far greater, and our reason for doing all of this is to share and give them the most important thing that we can give them – Jesus.

Invite Others to Rise and Walk

So hear my heart – we want to help people rise up so that in a few years or less, they won’t need a 3Eleven night! We want to help people rise up! We don’t want to give people a handout, but a hand up. And that by the way my friends isn’t easy and it’s costly and takes time and involves great joy and great heartache and disappointment along the way. But we want to see them rise up in the power and name of Jesus. It all happens in relationship with others. We are trying to build bridges to do just that! So we have to stop and look at them and get them to look at us just as Peter and John did. We must take the time to make the connection and then the invitation! We must reach out our hand and take a hold of it and invite them to rise and walk in the name of Jesus both spiritually and then the rest of their life too! By the way, can we invite others to look at us and do they see the reflection of Jesus in us.

Incredible Miracles Occurs in the Name of Jesus

Acts 3:6,16; 4:7,10,12,17-18,30

Don’t miss this – guy has been crippled for over 40 years and in an instant his body is completely and totally healed! AMAZING! Not sure he even believes it for Peter reaches down and grabs his hand pulls him up!

Your name nor my name carries really any authority – maybe at your job or in your home – but I can go out on the street and do something or tell someone something in my name and no one cares. Now put a police officer behind it or the governor or the president or a judge – something else altogether. But we are talking a name far, far greater than any of those names, [Philippians 2:9-11](#) tell us something about that name!

Peter and John didn't do this in their power and they will stand and proclaim that in the coming verses, but it was done in the power and the authority of Jesus the Christ! No other way it could have happened!

ILLUS: Thomas Aquinas tells how he called on Pope Innocent II while he was counting large sums of money for the church and says “the church can no longer say silver or gold have I none” and Thomas says yes holy Father that is true and neither can the church say arise and walk!”

It was not just a physical healing but more importantly, a spiritual healing.

What God used to bring about this healing both physical and spiritual in this man's life. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**

Immediate Response of Worship Follows

Then he gets physically healed and spiritually healed, right before everybody's eyes!

Tells us that he got up, and didn't do what some of us including myself, he did hop up run home to tell Mama, Mama look I wasn't born with a good set of legs, but look at what has happened.

Or tell my friends, look at what I can do now! Can you believe it?

What is the first thing you would do, if you had never walked.

Do you know what he did? It is another reason we know he was spiritually changed. Tells us he leaped up and walked for the first time he got up and went into the temple where God's presence was represented.

We are about to celebrate the reason that we all now have access to God, it is because the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, when the veil of the temple was rent in two! signaling a new age, we now all have access to Jesus. We don't need a priest, we can immediately have that access!

[Romans 5:2](#), “It is through him that we have access to Him through His grace.”

We don't have access to God except through the blood of Jesus

You can walk into a church building, but there is a that God shaped void inside of us, and without it we are not complete, healed and we can't have that kind of access to that kind of abundant life outside of Jesus.

He did not go to the temple to visit the presence of God, it was now living inside of Him through the power of the Holy Spirit, because He had trusted Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior

What a visual representation to those Jews that day that were watching and seeing that day. Watching this man walk into the place he had never been allowed to walk in before, the presence of God!

Did you know that you can do that to today, that you can walk into the very presence of God today, by asking Him into your heart and life?

Doesn't matter for any defects, sin, your past, whatever, when you ask Jesus Christ to come and take up residence in your life.

For the Christian, you have access daily to the very presence of God,

Do we take that for granted? I guarantee you this lame man didn't!

Do you long for the presence of God in your life?

Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." (NIV)

Psalm 84:10 "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. (NIV)

Involved Fulfillment of Prophecy *Isaiah 35:5-6; Luke 7:22*

God talking through Isaiah, talking about the Messiah, what would happened when He came, and what He would be like

"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. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."

The Jewish people had been waiting for that day.

Why did God heal this man on this day? Don't know if we will ever know all the answers, but one of them would be because there was a crowd gathered together. And here God gives them a physical example of the fulfillment of prophecy right before their very eyes all through the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Illustrates the Beautiful Picture of Salvation

- ✓ **Impoverished** The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him
- Iniquity is Innate In Us** He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God. Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants.
- ✓ **Isolated from God** He was "outside the temple," and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be.
- ✓ **Instantaneous and Complete** The man was healed wholly by the grace of God, and the healing was immediate (Eph 2:8-9). (Happens right then and God gives all of Himself and all that we will need!)
Based on His commitment to us not on our commitment to Him
- ✓ **Impossible Without Jesus** [Acts 4:12](#); [John 14:6](#)
- ✓ **Initiates Joy and Praise in You and in Others**
He gave evidence of what God had done by "walking, and leaping, and praising God"!
- ✓ **Identity Changes** Now that he could stand, there was no question where this man stood! We see the change - He publicly identifies himself with the Apostles, both in the temple) and in their arrest!

In Need This Morning Of... **Toni Marino Jimmy Clark, Tonya Collins**

- ✓ In Need this Morning of a Touch of Jesus to Raise you to a new life.
You simply need to follow the ABC Path to Jesus and He will take you by the hand and raise you up! **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
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- ✓ **In Need of Wisdom** to know if this is the Church Family where you know you need to be connected, growing, committing and going.
- ✓ **In Need of some kind of Healing** in your life in the Powerful name of Jesus: Physically, Spiritually, Emotionally, Mentally, whatever it may be! Going to ask you stand today or for someone today!
- ✓ **In Need of the Lord to make you more Aware of the Intersections** that are right before you every day and that we would take advantage of them. Where are some intersections in your daily life?

- ✓ **In Need of Boldness** to Impart to others what you know or give what you have – Jesus is Enough!
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