

WEEKLY REFLECTION

We've been tracing the movement of the Holy Spirit since our foray through the Gospel of Luke, witnessing His descent in wind and fire on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4) Since then, He has empowered the early church to live boldly in vulnerability, and to embody the spirit of generosity. (Acts 2:42-47) This Sunday, we witnessed another display of His power as Peter and John encountered a man who had been crippled from birth. (Acts 3:1-2)

Where the crippled man had been expecting alms from Peter and John, being dependent on the charity of others to survive, Peter instead looks directly at him and acknowledges him (v. 4). He offers the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. (v. 6) The result? A restoration not just of the man's feet and ankles, but also of his relationship with God and the community, as immediately he enters into the temple with the apostles. (v.7-10)

Though there is much that could be said about the passage itself, let us focus on three actionable principles: (1) the church needs to see the broken. God has placed us in unique circumstances to minister to specific individuals, but that requires us to see—to really, truly, see *and* acknowledge—the broken. (2) The church uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Peter and John were uneducated fishermen, not lawyers or scribes, but God worked through them nonetheless! (3) The church must offer more than programs, and share the saving power of Jesus Christ. Peter had no gold or silver. What he did have was the good news of Christ, and the results were astounding. For the very first time in his life, the crippled man could walk and worship in the temple!

So, church: will you see the broken? Will you go out in obedience and willingness to act? You need not be anxious about what you have to offer, as the saving power of Christ is more than enough. All you need to do is to see, obey, and go.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What does it mean to be broken? Apart from the crippled man, can you give examples of other broken people in Acts 3? Why are they broken, and what does the saving power of Christ offer them?

QUESTION TWO:

Instead of offering alms, Peter instead directs his gaze at the crippled man in verse 4, and also asks the man to look at him and John. What do you think is the significance of this act? Why does Peter ask the man to look at him, before he responds to the man's expressed need? How does the entire interaction challenge the way that we love and respond to the needs around us?

QUESTION THREE:

On Sunday, we broke up into groups of twos and threes to pray for people in our life. Who were the people that you prayed for, and why do they need Christ? What are some actionable steps that you can take in walking with them, building relationship with them, and sharing with them the saving power of Christ?

How can your group be supporting you through this journey, and keeping you accountable on this?