

20260705 Faith That Transforms – Ps Bijoy

Acts 3:1-10

It was an ordinary afternoon in Jerusalem. Peter and John were heading to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. This was their regular rhythm, a pattern of prayer they kept faithfully even after Pentecost. The temple they were walking towards was no ordinary building. Its gates alone were a spectacle. The gate called Beautiful, where this story takes place, was made of fine Corinthian brass, standing seventy-five feet high with enormous double doors. The Jewish historian Josephus recorded that it outshone every other gate on the temple mount, including those covered in silver and gold. It was at this very gate, the most breathtaking entrance to the most sacred place in Jerusalem, that a lame man sat every single day, asking for coins. He had been crippled since birth, carried there daily by others. Right at the threshold of all that beauty sat a man who had never walked a single step in his life. But on this particular afternoon, God had something far greater in mind than what anyone at that gate was expecting.

Declaration of Faith (v.6)

When Peter and John approached the temple that afternoon, the lame man noticed them and asked for alms. Peter fixed his eyes on him, and so did John. Most people who want to ignore a beggar are careful not to make eye contact with them, but Peter looked at him intently and said, "Look at us." The man gave them his full attention. He probably stretched out his hand or a cup, expecting a generous donation. He was right to expect something from them, but he was about to receive far more than the monetary gift he would have been satisfied with.

This is where we have to pause. Many people have not yet come to the place where they really expect something from God. The lame man at least expected something, even if it was less than what Jesus wanted to give him. The greater challenge is not just to expect something from God, but to expect the

right things. We are often far too ready to settle for much less than what God wants to give us, and our low expectations end up robbing us of what He had in mind.

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Peter had no money, but he did have authority from Jesus to heal the sick. Jesus had trained him in this, and Peter knew what it was like to be used by God in that way.

For some people, to hear "silver and gold I do not have" is the worst possible news. They feel the church is in a poor state if it has to say that. But it is far worse if the church never has the spiritual power to say, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Peter waved the name of Jesus like a banner. "Jesus of Nazareth" had been used as an insult during Christ's life on earth, but Peter was not ashamed of it. He declared it openly, and it carried all the authority of the risen Christ behind it.

Action of Faith (v.7)

Peter did not stop at words. He reached down, took the lame man by the right hand, and lifted him up. It was one thing to say "rise up and walk," but it was a far greater thing to take the man's hand and pull him to his feet. In that moment, Peter received what Scripture calls the gift of faith described in 1 Corinthians 12:9, a supernatural ability to trust God in a specific situation. This was not something Peter did on a whim or to make a scene. He did it under the specific prompting of the Holy Spirit.

What is also worth noticing is that strength did not come to the man's feet before Peter acted. The healing did not happen first, and then Peter helped him up. The strength came as Peter took his hand and lifted him.

The word translated "leaping up" describes the sudden coming into place of something that was out of joint, like the articulation of a socket snapping into position. This is a very careful medical description of exactly what happened to this man's body in that moment.

Result of Faith (v.8)

The man who had been lame from birth leaped to his feet, walked, and entered the temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping, and praising God.

Three things stand out in what he did. First, he attached himself to the apostles and entered the temple with them. Second, he immediately began to use what God had given him. He did not stand still. He walked, and he leaped. Third, he praised God. Worship was his immediate and natural response. This is the natural overflow of a genuine encounter with Jesus. Worship is not manufactured here. It is not a response to a song or an atmosphere. It erupts from a man whose entire existence has just been transformed. For over forty years, this man had sat at the gate of the house of God, never able to enter. Now he walks through it on his own two feet, and praise is the only language he has left.

The result of faith is always transformation, and transformation always produces worship.

It is also worth noting that this man was more than forty years old and had been crippled since birth. He was a familiar face at that gate. Jesus himself must have passed him many times without healing him. One reason for this is that God's timing is just as important as His will. It was for the greater glory of God that this man be healed at this particular moment, through the apostles, as a sign that the risen Jesus was still at work in Jerusalem.

Witness of Faith (v.9-10)

All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognised him. This was the man who had sat at the Beautiful Gate for decades. They had walked past him on their way into the temple countless times. Now he was standing on his own two feet in the temple courts, and they were filled with wonder and amazement.

The church's task is not simply to make people's present condition more bearable. As one commentator puts it, the task of the church is to release here on earth the redemptive work of God in Christ. That is exactly what this miracle showed. Peter and John did not want to just support the man in his condition. They wanted to transform his life by the power of the risen Jesus Christ. And when that transformation happened publicly, the watching crowd could not look away. The text says they were filled with wonder and amazement. That response is not surprise at a trick or a novelty. It is the response of people who are suddenly confronted with the reality of a risen, living, active Jesus. The miracle was not just about one man being healed. It was a public declaration that the Jesus who had been crucified outside Jerusalem's walls was still at work inside them.

That is the witness of faith. Not an argument, not a program but a life that has been genuinely changed by Jesus, standing in plain sight for all to see.

Conclusion

This story begins with a man who wanted coins and ends with a man who could not stop leaping and praising God. And woven through every moment of it is faith. Faith that declared what Jesus could do before anything happened. Faith that reached out a hand and lifted a man to his feet. Faith that moved the moment it received what God gave. And faith that became a witness the whole crowd could not ignore. That is the thread that runs through this passage, and it is the same thread God invites us to hold onto today. He still gives more than we think to ask for.