

## Healing in the Name of Jesus Christ

King of Glory Lutheran Church

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People of Faith – God's Story: Peter Acts 3:1-16

<sup>1</sup>One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. <sup>4</sup>Peter looked intently 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 or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand 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>Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>All the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup>While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. <sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

*Jesus Christ healed the lame beggar through the prayers of Peter and John. Divine and miraculous healings still happen today. Healing also comes through being included in a community of faith. Who can we invite to King of Glory for Jesus' healing?*

"I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."

With those words, the lame beggar's life is transformed. His feet and ankles are made strong. He leaps, he walks, he jumps for joy and praises God. Can we hear him? Can we imagine?

“Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus! I can walk! This is incredible! Thank you, Jesus!”

This man has been lame from birth. We don’t know how old he was in our story, but never-the-less, he has had days and months and years of not being able to walk. He had to have been carried everywhere, including up to the temple gate. Each day, he would be there, begging for his daily rations. Without the kindness of passerby’s, he wouldn’t eat. His only option was to beg.

That day, when Peter and John were going into the temple for prayer, they too heard his cries for help. Peter and John asked him to look them in the eyes. Then Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.”

The worshippers inside the temple were amazed, staring at the three-some when they came in for prayer. Peter is quick to remind them, that this kind of healing doesn’t come from human power or simply being a religious zealot. This healing, can only come from the Author of Life, Jesus Christ. The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the ancestors raised this Jesus from the dead. It is through God’s power alone, the lame man is walking.

Over and over in the Gospels, Jesus heals the sick. He speaks directly to the demon in the man within the synagogue at Capernaum (Lk 4:31-37). He speaks directly to the fever in Peter’s mother-in-law. (Lk 4:38-39) He pronounces freedom to a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years. (Lk 13:10-13)

This kind of prayer, is called Authoritative Prayer. For those of you in our adult class, “Have you Ever Wondered”, you’ll remember we learned about this kind of prayer in Richard Foster’s book. It not a prayer of asking, it is a prayer of command. Peter and John said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.”

In the modern, western world, healing is almost entirely defined by doctors and medications, surgery and physical therapy or counseling. For many of us, healing through the name of Jesus Christ is difficult to imagine.

Yet, as promised in scripture, God gives spiritual gifts to all the various members of Christ’s Body. People have the spiritual gift of wisdom, generosity, or knowledge, or faith, healing, prophecy, compassion, teaching, or speaking in tongues. We as Lutherans, tend towards the intellectual side of faith, given Rev.

Martin Luther's inclination for study. And our stoic Norwegian, Swedish, Danish heritage doesn't help, either. It's hard enough to raise our hands in worship!

Yet, these miraculous, divine healings still take place. Today. At a Synod Assembly, our own Bishop Gonia, who worked in Madagascar, showed a video of divine healings taking place in a Madagascar church during worship. Likewise, there is a friend of mine, whom I met through a clergy prayer group here in Loveland. His name is Dave Arns. He and others participate in the Loveland Healing Rooms ministry. God has given these faithful servants the gifts of healing and prophecy. Dave has shared many stories about healings that he, himself, witnessed as he prayed over people.

A woman whose headache disappeared within seconds. Another whose tendons were shredded, also had pins in her ankle. After laying hands on her, she began to bend her foot, something she hadn't been able to do before. He was part of a 109 person prayer team in Brazil, where a person was deaf in one ear. Even though the worship band was loud, after Dave prayed, she could hear his tiny finger snaps. One woman asked for prayer for shoulder muscles and a tumor on the side of her head. By the time Dave had prayed for her shoulder muscles, they couldn't even find the tumor! For another person, the Doctor later said, "We just don't know where the disease went."

I share this with you as encouragement. God is still healing people in Jesus' name. Peter and John healing the lame beggar is a story we can be comforted and encouraged by. God is yet very much at work in the world healing people.

"I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."

The second part of the story, is this previous lame man, now comes into the temple with Peter and John. After having spent perhaps years begging at the gate, he too, is now welcomed into the worshipping community. Peter didn't ask for proof of belief before the healing. It was given without bias or reservation.

I hope that at some point in your life of faith, you've thought about church as a place of healing. On certain Saturday nights or Sunday mornings, when we might be struggling and our hearts don't want to pray or sing; the people around us hold us up by praying and singing for us. Likewise, there is healing in community by being included at Jesus' table without proof of belief or reservation. "The table is ready, all are welcome." Forgiveness for all, healing for all.

Here at King of Glory, we've housed the homeless for years on Christmas Eve. The LGBTQIA community is welcome to worship because we voted to become a Reconciled in Christ congregation. Can you recall a time when you didn't get invited or weren't included? It can be very painful. Inclusion within a faith community holds the possibility of healing.

Who isn't here that could be here? Is it a neighbor that has lapsed from going to church during the pandemic or who has been ill? What about that long-time friend who has always been curious about your "church". Is it time to share what you have, that is not silver or gold?

Furthermore, I'm asking all of us to think about this the next time we pass a person begging on the street corner. Peter and John didn't give the beggar what he asked for. They gave him something better.

If we choose not to give any money, or a bottle of water, or a McDonald's coupon to a beggar, we can give them what we have. God's power. Pray for that person. God knows their heart...knows what they need. Pray for their spirit, their family or relationships. Pray for the organizations in town where they do receive food and help with shelter.

Finally, if we wanted to roll down the window and give them a business card with King of Glory's address on it, do that! There are some at the tables in back. Maybe they have never been invited to a church service. God is a wise one. God will get them here if that is God's plan.

God is such a wise God. Such an amazing, fabulous, God! May we, too, claim the power of Jesus Christ in inclusion and healing. Amen

The Healing Room of Loveland  
House of Neighborly Service E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mondays 5:30-8:00 pm  
[HealingRoomsLoveland.org](http://HealingRoomsLoveland.org)