



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of November 10, 2024

Acts 3:1-10

***[1] Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. [2] And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. [3] Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. [4] And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." [5] And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. [6] But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" [7] And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. [8] And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God, [10] and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.***

1. The lame man in our passage was a picture of suffering and despair. Think about the root cause of suffering and despair. Do you suffer and are you in despair because you cannot fly on your own power? Or because you cannot walk on water? What do you think was the root cause of the lame man's suffering and despair?
2. When the lame man asked Peter and John for alms, what do you think he was hoping to receive? Instead, what did he actually receive? Like the lame man, why do we sometimes go after things that don't really satisfy our needs?
3. The first thing Peter and John tell the lame man is, "look at us", which means the beggar could not even look them in the eye. Symbolically, why do you think it was important for the man to fix his attention on Peter and John, and what should this teach us to do in our own times of suffering and despair?
4. Do you believe there are Christians today who have miraculous gifts of healing? Why or why not? What purpose did the miracles serve in the early church? How does the Holy Spirit, working through the word of God, continue to do miracles in our world today?
5. How does the miracle of a changed life that leaps and praises God, fill people with a sense of wonder and amazement? Do others around you see such a changed life in you? Should all believers respond to their salvation like the lame man to his healing? Why or why not?