



Sermon, Sunday April 30, 2023

“Peter Heals a Lame Beggar”

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-10 ¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ²And 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. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^[a] stand up and walk.” ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and 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 astonishment at what had happened to him.

Introduction: In the end, good triumphs over evil.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter. May the grace and peace of the Lord be upon us. Also, during the Easter season, we hope that the 'life of Christ' will be clearly established deep within us. Even though evil exists in the world we live in, I hope we live with the belief that in the end, good will eventually win over evil. Psalm chapter 23, which we know so well, says in verses 4 and 6; **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (v.4) Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (v.6)”**

During the hardships and challenges of our lives, I hope the Lord gives us courage and peace like the words of the Psalm above.

Today's text shows how the kingdom of God is fulfilled in our lives through the case of Peter healing a man who was lame from birth. By the way, prior to today's text, Acts chapter 2 describes the beautiful image of a newly formed community through the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost, and the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Even though the world we live in is imperfect, Christians should be able to hope and dream that the kingdom of God will be realized on this earth. Then, how is the kingdom of God that we hope for and dream of fulfilled on earth?

Body: Peter Heals the Lame Beggar

According to today's text, it was 3 p.m. prayer time, and Peter and John were going up to the temple. At that time, people would leave to beg at the gate of the temple called 'Beautiful Gate'. A lame beggar who had not been able to walk since birth saw Peter and John about to enter the temple and asked them for alms. Peter and John looked at him and said, **“Look at us.”**



The lame beggar looked at the two men, thinking he might get something from them. Peter said to the lame beggar. **“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” (Acts 3:6).**

As you can see in this verse, Peter does not have the ability to give what the lame beggar wants right away (money, food). But Peter had the best thing to give to him. According to today's words, Peter says, **'What I have I give you'**. And then he says, **'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth'**. What does in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth mean to Peter?

It is the many miracles experienced with Jesus, the teachings about the kingdom of God, the service and love of Jesus, the forgiveness and encouragement of Peter's betrayal, and the fulfillment of the words Jesus promised to Peter and his disciples about the cross and resurrection. Peter came to know who the Lord was through all those processes and experiences.

We can find this same kind of look of Peter in his Pentecostal sermon. At the end of Acts 2:36, Peter says; **“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”** Also, Peter says; **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)**

Furthermore, Peter goes to the Sanhedrin and declares, **"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**(Acts 4:12).

These words of Peter contain his firm confession of faith in the Lord. However, Peter moves beyond his confession of faith, because **'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth'** has become his destiny, so he moves on to the path that Jesus walked.

We must take the challenge of our faith from the act of Peter. Because, although we say we worship Jesus, there are many cases that do not follow his life. Can we say that the church is the hope of the world if we do not properly fulfill our role as the spiritual body of Jesus Christ? If we confess that the church is the hope of the world, we must be able to live the life that Jesus lived.

In today's text, we can see Peter following the path Jesus lived. In today's text, Peter shouted, **"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk,"** and at the same time took him by the right hand. Then, the lame beggar's feet and ankles were healed, and he was able to stand and walk. Because the Lord healed the lame beggar through Peter's hands.

We find in the Gospels many of the miracles that Jesus performed during his public life. When the Lord's hand touches people, miracles of healing take place. The Lord helped Peter's mother-in-law from a fever by taking her by the hand (Mark 1:31), and healed a man who was deaf and could hardly talk by putting his fingers into the man's ears (Mark 7:33), He raised the daughter of Jairus, who had already died, by taking her by the hand (Luke 8:54), and brought back to life the son of the widow of Nain who was enshrined (Luke 7:14), by touching his coffin

As the examples mentioned above show, the Lord was not reluctant to spend time in contact with those whom the Jewish law defined as unclean. All of this was possible because Jesus truly loved everyone He met. Jesus wanted everyone He met to be saved by the grace of God. Therefore, we need the power to love, not just speak words. This is possible when Jesus of Nazareth is our Lord. And when Jesus becomes our master, the kingdom of God will be established.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah prophesied about the world ruled by the Lord as follows. **“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.” (Isaiah 35:5-6).**



The healing of a lame beggar in today's text is a sign that announces the arrival of the Messiah's age. So, Peter gives a powerful testimony about Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the people gathered at Solomon's Colonnade (Acts 3:11-26).

Peter speaks in Acts 3:12 and 15; **“Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? (v.12) You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses to this. (v.15)”**

Conclusion: The Christian Who Makes Hope

Now let's summarize today's message. Even now, there are many people around us who are in the same situation as the lame beggar sitting in front of the beautiful gates of the temple. All around us are those who are in fear of war, those who have lost their families and homes due to natural disasters, those who have been frustrated by a long period of poverty, those who have lost their jobs and those who have lost the meaning of life. We must raise them up in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. We must raise those who have fallen due to the hardships of life. We must change the despair of life into the hope of life in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. I hope we all become Christians who handle this well. Amen.

