

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Acts 3:1-10

September 10, 2017

Stand in awe of the Risen Messiah!

When was the last time you saw a child learn to walk?

- It is a complex set of skills - balance, coordination, etc.
- Even with healthy limbs they don't walk for months, let alone minutes
- This man, who had never walked - 40 year old atrophied limbs - instantly stands, walks, leaps, and jumps around like a spring calf.
- *they recognized him... and ...were filled with wonder and amazement*

Stand in awe of the Risen Messiah!

❖ Stand in awe of Jesus' power!

- Jesus' power to instantly give healthy limbs, coordination, balance - Wow!
- Wait! *The same Jesus who died on the cross?* Yes!
- Israel's leaders want to get rid of Jesus - stop him *dead in his tracks*.
- Dead men lack power to do anything!
- The power of Jesus' Name reveals: **He is not defeated!**
 - ♦ He rose, lives, and reigns - the Divine Messiah King
- Death has no power over Jesus. He still lives and reigns.
 - ♦ Power over hurricanes, wind, water, earthquakes - buildings & trees
 - ♦ He is the refuge and shield of his people - for real - not just talk!
 - ♦ Against forces of nature, demons, and hostile people. **Amazing!**

Stand in awe of the Risen Messiah!

❖ Stand in awe of Jesus' wisdom!

- But wait.
 - ♦ With that power, why was he born lame about the time of Jesus' birth?
 - ♦ Begging at this place for 40 years, why didn't Jesus heal him?
 - ♦ Why didn't Peter and John heal him earlier? Why make him wait?
- Insights from John 9
 - ♦ While leaving the Temple, escaping those who wanted to stone Jesus, *he saw a man blind from birth.* ² *His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*
³ *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ..."*
 - ♦ Disabilities and ailments, while impacts of the curse, are not specifically a curse or judgment on the afflicted. Often they're there for God's work.

- ♦ There's evidence: 40 years lame, led this man to trust the Lord
- ♦ The man's response - worship God. Joy. He doesn't grumble!
- ♦ Furthermore, this led to him trusting Jesus as the Messiah.
- ♦ The chief role of miracles, not medical aid, but confirming God's Word.
- ♦ In his wisdom Jesus saved this miracle for this time, sending the Apostles to perform at the optimal time.
- ♦ Jesus knows what works best to bring us to faith and confirm our faith, so we are secure in the kingdom of the Messiah. **Amazing!**

Stand in awe of the Risen Messiah!

❖ Stand in awe of Jesus' promises!

- *Then Peter said, "... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*
- Command or promise?
- God's Word - the gospel is God's promises with power.
 - ♦ God's word works. And it never fails. He keeps his promises.
- This miracle - a foreshadowing of the Messiah's Resurrection promise:
⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."
- The Risen Messiah Jesus proves he has the power to keep the promise to release our bodies from all the curses of sin's corruption.
 - ♦ Giving us newer and better bodies than the one we were born with.
 - ♦ An eternity to live without ailment, accident, or disaster - with him.
 - ♦ All because Jesus paid for all our sins and rose to life to give us life with God under his love and care - eternally perfect in perfection.
 - ♦ Let that fill you with wonder and amazement every day - for a rich life!

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