

MAIN TEXT

(Acts 3:1-12, 16) *Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. ⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" ⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. ¹² Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? ¹⁶ "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.*

MAIN POINT:

✓ The change you _____ might not be the change you _____.

How to Keep the Change God Wants For Us:

- Healthy _____ open you up to _____ moments
- It might take _____ to get to _____
- God will use your _____ for _____
- Don't _____ your _____

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MAIN POINT:

✓ The change you **NEED** might not be the change you **WANT**.

How to Keep the Change God Wants For Us:

- Healthy **HABITS** open you up to **HOLY** moments
- It might take **NEW RELATIONSHIPS** to get to **NEW PLACES**
- God will use your **ENTHUSIASM** for **EVANGELISM**
- Don't **OVERLOOK** your **OPPORTUNITY**

Group Homework

Getting Started

- Where did you grow up? Have you lived anywhere else?

- If money were no object, where would you live?

Digging Deeper

- Contrast the Peter of Acts 3-4 with the Peter of the gospels. Write Peter's characteristics in the table below.

Peter of the Gospels Matthew 14:28-33, 16:22-23, 17:1-5; Luke 22:31-34, 56-61	Peter of Acts Acts 3:4-7, 12-26; 4:8,13,19-20

What defined Peter's "change?"

- In Luke 11:24-26 and Matthew 12:43-45, Jesus gives a picture of what happens when we attempt change.
 - What happens when we "sweep a house clean" but have nothing to fill it with?

- Explain a time in which you've experienced this.

- Read Ephesians 4:25-32 and think through the good qualities with which you personally should fill your life. What should you fill your house with after you sweep it clean?

- Read Ephesians 5:15-17 and Galatians 6:10. Record your observations about what God's Word says regarding our daily opportunities.

- Pastor Landon said, "The change you need might not be the change you want." Does this statement excite you, or terrify you? Why?

- Can you think of anything in your life (a distraction) that is causing you to only consider what you want, instead of what you need? Should you get rid of it?

- CS Lewis said, "I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity."
 - How is this statement true or false in America, 2018?

 - How is this statement true or false for me, personally?

Application Questions

- Thinking about the sentence, "It might take new relationships to get to new places." Is there an old relationship you need to lose so God can take you somewhere new?
- "God will use your enthusiasm for evangelism." Would people characterize you as enthusiastic about God? Why or why not? Are there some simple next steps you can take to foster enthusiasm? What would they be?
- While God's new covenant did not require a specific time of daily prayer, Peter and John were going up to the temple "at the hour of prayer." We see prayer as a daily habit in the lives of other Biblical heroes. Examples: Hannah 1 Samuel 1:11, Daniel 6:11, David - Ps. 55:17, Jesus - Luke 5:16, Mary - Luke 1:46-55.
 - In what way are you accessing the power of prayer in your life?
 - Have you carved out a specific time of day to meet with God?
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to pray without ceasing. Is prayer a regular part of your daily life?