

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 8 – Walking and Leaping

Acts 3.1-16

Need

- He couldn't change him – his problem was paralysis
- Culture couldn't change him
- Politics couldn't change him
- Religion couldn't change him
 - What all of these offered were ways to ease his suffering but not to deal with his greatest need
 - So with us: we face a world unable to help themselves or anyone else with the greatest need – their sin
 - The church has plenty to say to culture, politics, religion and religious freedom, holistic health, ethics, philosophy, psychology, education, race relations, marriage, relationships, parenting, etc. – but we have one thing WE MUST SAY
- Jesus Christ of Nazareth – man, rejected, Savior
 - 1 Peter 2.24-25, 3.18
 - We can't fix everything, but we have a fix for the main thing and can work on the rest

Risk

- We don't see - distraction
- We don't care - compassion
- We lack confidence – “Who am I?”
- We lack humility – thinking we have more resources than we do – AQUINAS
- We settle for easy answers / actions
- We are scared of embarrassment

Our aversion to risk doesn't nullify His command or deplete His resources or negate His promise

8500 children starved to death today

2450 children aborted every day

50% of the world lives on less than \$2 per day

7033 ethnolinguistic groups (people groups) unreached (3.1B people)

3250 ethnolinguistic groups (people groups) unengaged (250M people)

4B area – 500,000+ with 300,000+ who are lost

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the most helpless situation you have ever faced? Other than “helpless,” what kinds of emotions went along with that situation? Do you remember particular thoughts or thought patterns you had? Applying all of that to this story in Acts 3, what insights do you gain into the desperation of the man at the gate?
2. In the sermon, Trent listed four sources from which we typically try to find help: self, culture (arts, norms, events, etc.), politics, and religion. In what ways have you seen people run to those for help? What was the result? What are the limitations and successes of these four sources?
3. Reread 1 Peter 2.24-25 and 3.18. What do these passages tell you about the work of Jesus Christ of Nazareth? Now read 1 John 1.5-2.-6. How do these two passages compare? What do you learn from each about the work of Jesus on the cross? How do we respond in light of that?
4. Out of the six reasons why we miss ministry opportunities, which one or two do you find yourself doing most often? Why? What is one thing that needs to change in order to miss less often?
5. During this time leading up to Easter, we are praying specifically for people far from God who are in our lives. Take time as a group to pray specifically for those people by name.