

# Search and Rescue

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Eleven)

Acts 3:1-10

## A. This passage is an insightful story about Peter, John and a beggar

1. It illustrates a change in Peter and in this man crippled in body and spirit
2. It illustrates the implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. It illustrates the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
4. It illustrates the calling and mission of the Church
5. It illustrates how ordinary people can become fearless witnesses of Christ

## B. Note five characteristics of these disciples of Jesus

### FIRST, THEY WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY

*“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts”* (Acts 2:46)

#### A. The early church was a praying church

#### B. They are going to meet together to pray where people didn't know Jesus

### SECOND, THEY WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND INTO THE FIRE

*“On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders...Jesus comes”* (John 20:19)

*“If they persecute me, they will persecute you.”* (John 15:20)

#### A. If you're afraid of the Jewish leaders, where wouldn't you go? The Temple

#### B. Where do they go? The Temple - where people don't know Jesus

### THIRD, THEY MET THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN LAME SINCE BIRTH

#### A. Luke tells us he is forty years old (cf. Acts 4:22)

1. Every day he came to the temple gate to hold out his hand hoping...
2. Every day he watched people go into the Temple; he couldn't; he was unclean

#### B. How did he get to the temple every day for decades?

1. Someone had to bring him. He was totally dependent
2. Do we have a beggar in our lives?
  - a. “Is First Cutlerville a place you'd bring your unchurched friend?”
  - b. “Is First Cutlerville a place someone who is wounded can find healing?”

## C. Peter stops and looks at the lame beggar: “Look at us”

*“Silver or gold I don't have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk!”* (Acts 3:6)

*“Instantly, the man's feet and ankles become strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk”* (Acts 3:7b-8)

#### 1. Amazing. He doesn't have to learn to walk, he just walks!

#### 2. Imagine the joy - after forty years of embarrassment and begging

## D. The Holy Spirit brings Peter and John and the beggar together - a miracle occurs and God is praised!

### FOURTH: THEY OFFER HIM A GIFT

#### A. The greatest miracle in this story is not a lame man walking

##### 1. The greatest thing Peter and John had to offer was Jesus Christ

##### 2. The best thing the Church has to offer is Jesus

- a. The Bible goes to great lengths to portray God's heart for the lost
- b. The Bible says God is looking for people who have his heart for the lost

#### B. What do you think Jesus wants to change in you today?

#### C. Are you available to carry someone else to Jesus?

### FIFTH, GOD BLESSES

#### A. Peter and John were on mission for the lost they were praying for - for those who matter to God

#### B. There is an obscure prophecy in Isaiah

*“Be strong and do not fear, your God will come...he will come to save you....Then will the lame leap like a deer.”* (Isaiah 35:4,6)

##### 1. After almost 800 years of waiting, this prophecy is fulfilled

- a. Jesus had come to save his people
- b. Peter and John went out on search and rescue missions

##### 2. The proof that Jesus had come to save his people was in a lame man leaping!