**Unstoppable - wk 5 – The Walkers**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel - picks up after the resurrection**

**A continuation of Luke's gospel - A narrative – to Theophilus**

**Acts 1:8 (sums up Acts) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**10 days later the Holy Spirit fell, and the church was launched.**

**One of my fav passages to preach – a gate called beautiful. (Pic)**

**Right at the entrance of temple courtyard – catch the people going in**

**Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John (together – imagine the years and friendship) were going up to the temple at the time of prayer - at three in the afternoon. (Some of your greatest moments are going to be when you’re faithful in the mundane) 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. (out there by family - used) 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!”**

**The man had no idea what he was looking for - looking to anything and anyone - we have a generation looking to anything and anyone for answers.**

**4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” (How are we going to get the world’s attention? So many of us try to blend in and look the same – are we different or the same?) 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. (He did not realize what he truly needed)**

**6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (Using the authority Jesus gave the apostles to confirm the Gospel) 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (This man who never walked, begins to crawl, then stumbles, then walks, then runs into the temple! No PT) 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, (same person – but different!) and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

**Empowered by the Spirit – Peter and John began to take it to those around them. Great miracle event – but just the start.**

**BTW - A changed life is the best proof of God’s work.**

**Not the amount of verses, amount of knowledge – or amount you give.**

**This man was different - completely changed - the proof was obvious Pray - God change me and let my life be different!**

**For The Follower – Walking Ready (living a life ready for revival)**

* **They had a consistent daily walk with God – person of prayer**

**Acts 3:1 - "Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer —at three in the afternoon" (Joshua 1:7-9 / John 14:23 / Exodus 19:5)**

**The miracle starts out with people of prayer! They had established a prayer life & focus on the things of God. This was their routine.**

**3PM right in the middle of the day God wanted to use them - and they were ready. Easier to steer a moving car, than a parked car - start moving - get going - walk in obedience with what you know, and God will steer you in ways you never imagined - walk ready.**

* **They gave time to notice the hurting around them – person of pace**

**Acts 3:3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!”**

**They did not rush by – “Can’t, on my way to pray.” Peter and John saw him – and stopped. HS brings attention the needs of others, even when they don't really see you.**

**This man was set there every day of his life. How many times before had they walked by this guy in their lifetime? But not today...**

**John 4:34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. (It starts with us looking and seeing)**

**We rarely give ourselves enough time to notice anything- we use every second of our time - drive time to the last minute / A to B**

**They had a schedule - but they noticed / they stopped - the HS spoke**

**Ministry is an opportunity, not a destination**

**Most often what God wants to do through us is when we least expect it. Most of Jesus and the apostle’s miracles were interruptions**

**Give time for God moments in your life – walk ready**

* **They took godly risks – person of faith**

**v.6 - Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” (This was not normal for them)**

**This is the first recorded miracle of the Apostles. How far out was this? He looked at his WWJD bracelet and said... get up. I can see John thinking - whoa, slow down Peter**

**He stepped up and stepped out – and expected the impossible.**

**Walk ready to step out in faith and see what God will.**

* **They met the practical need of others – person of compassion**

**v. 7 Peter helps him up on his feet - He doesn't just tell him to get up but helps him up. (Acts 3:5-6 / James 2:15-17 / Matthew 25:37-40 / Acts 20:35)**

**They gave what they had (some can give financially) a helping hand. Peter didn't respond - let me ask some people at my church and see if they can help. We'll get back with you - he did it. Here is Jesus – here is my hand to help you up.**

**They were willing to get dirty - V6-7 - they took this person by the hand - they touched him - We cannot be afraid or proud to touch the hurting, dirty, broken, outcast of society.**

**If each of us noticed one person’s need and did something about it every wk - for one mth - thousands of lives would be affected.**

**Are you willing – are you person of compassion?**

##### So, this guy runs around and comes back - Acts 3:11 While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. (public temple courtyard) 12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: (NLT – saw the opportunity and addressed the crowd) “Fellow Israelites, 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?

##### Peter then raises his voice again and declares the gospel of Jesus Christ – Life, death, resurrection, and repentance.

##### 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. (greatest characters in Israel) You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One (God himself!) and asked that a murderer be released to you. (Barabbas) 15 You killed the author of life, (You did it - literally!! We all did it - spiritually!!) but God raised him from the dead. (2 mths earlier) We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

##### They made sure Jesus was the focus - person of humility

##### It was never about them - always pointed to Jesus. They were never wanted the center of attention.

**If anything great, amazing, miraculous happens – It’s Jesus!!**

**Beware of celebrity Christians who make themselves the star.**

##### 17 “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, (perfect sovereign plan of God) saying that his Messiah would suffer.

##### (Peter then explains how they all need to respond to this truth) 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, (we are sinners – but Jesus can wash out sins away) that times of refreshing (repent to breathe again) may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. (That may know him too) 21 Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. (Jesus will be returning)

##### 22 For Moses said, (Deut 18:15-19) ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’ (Leviticus 23)

##### 24 “Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ (Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18) 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

##### They knew God’s Word and how to use it – person of the Bible

##### It was in them – they read and knew how to use it.

##### 1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect… / Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

##### To know and have the word in your heart – ready to answer and ready to look for the answer.

* **They knew the greatest need was spiritual not physical – person of the gospel**

**This is not just helping people, the clear point – you need Jesus.**

**Peter gave a clear invitation - there was no mistaking the motive**

**The message is clear - Jesus washes our sin away – You need Jesus.**

**He didn't beat around the bush afraid of what people might think**

**Peter was not afraid to talk about sin. There is no good news without the problem - Jesus paid the price**

**This was not about a healing ministry; this was about our need for Jesus. The miracle was simply a sign that pointed to the authority of Jesus. Let me tell you something today – YOU NEED JESUS.**

**What happens next is unexpected - Acts 4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. (three groups that hate each other – unite) 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. (They started at 3pm… )**

**Walking with Jesus - does not always bring the results we expect**

**You hear - you follow - you listen - you respond - you obey - you see God working thru you... but then - trouble, trials follow - really?**

**They are preaching get arrested, interrogated, threatened, and jailed sounds like a bad day – Acts 4:4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. \* No, sounds like an awesome day!! (2 thousand more than a few days earlier)**

**Next week - Acts 4 - What follows is the beginning of resistance against Christians. They are arrested / persecuted / and killed - and an amazing move of God grows. (The fire spreads!)**

**For The Hurting – Not walking (or barely walking)**

**That lame man - since he was a child, was taken to the court entrance to be used for another’s gain – to beg – empty – alone – abandoned**

**Perhaps like that man – you are a result of people selfishly using you – parents, family, friends, ex’s - people around you.**

**Maybe like that man – you feel used and broken.**

**That lame man – was asking anyone and everyone who came by – for help**

**Perhaps like that man – you are looking and asking anyone for hope. A desire to love and be loved. To feel like you belong.**

**- For some it’s expressed in peer pressure - If I can fit in…**

**- For others it is expressed in ambition - If I’m successful…**

**- For others it is expressed in a series of poor relationships…**

**- Still for some it is expressed in addition – I’ll just mask it…**

**Maybe like him you’re looking for anything - anyone to give you answers - you've tried so much (sex, alcohol, drugs, people...)**

**Acts 4:22 - tells us that man was over 40 yrs old - waiting a long time - but God said on that day... this was your day – it’s not too late.**

**Perhaps like that man – you are wondering if you’ll ever have relief – ever have hope – ever have healing.**

**Maybe you've been waiting your whole life for help**

**As Peter said then… I say today - Look at me… I don’t have much in processions to give you – but what I do have I will give you… Jesus.**

**Know this – Jesus can reach you wherever you are.**

**And the place of pain became the place of healing**

**And that place called beautiful, became a beautiful place.**

**God met him at a place called beautiful – he thought he was destined for failure - but God met him at the door… It was at that beautiful place that a crippled man found he fit in the Body of Christ**

**You’re at a beautiful place today – Jesus is inviting you.**

**2 Questions?**

* **To the Christian – will you walk ready? The HS can use you in your home, at work, at school, in your neighborhood. Can you see it?**
* **To the hurting - What are you going to do about Jesus? Only Jesus can satisfy what you’re looking for.**