

April 8, 2024

Raise Up and Go!

[Acts 3:1-10](#)

“And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.” Acts 3:7

In our scripture today, Peter and John have entered the temple, the same temple that Jesus visited during his ministry. As they were entering, a lame man’s call got their attention.

This man had spent many days at the Beautiful Gate begging, but on this day, the two disciples intentionally stopped in front of him. Now all this man wanted was some alms. Peter tells the man that he has no silver or gold, but he directs him to stand up and walk in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Wow! What a gift. The next verse tells us that he took the man’s hand and raised him up.

Recently, our pastor spoke of scripture in the Gospel of Mark. He spoke of the words “raised up” and how often Mark used those words in his gospel. Raise up, receive new strength, a new life, a new beginning. This is what I believe Peter has given to the lame man. As in many of the other healing encounters that Jesus had, this man jumped up and immediately started praising God.

The people were filled with wonder and amazement. I have no doubt that they ran and told many of the splendor of God. Peter and John had been authorized through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to go out and continue His teachings and to continue His works of healing the lame and the sick.

Most of us do not feel that we are qualified to heal the sick and the lame, but through the Holy Spirit we are equipped to go forth and “raise up” the sick, the lonely, the left out. We can do this through our witness, our prayers, our tending to other with our gifts, graces and our love.

We, as Christians, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:28). As we go forward from Easter to Pentecost, I urge each of us to pray for those opportunities to raise up those who need a little lift. Imagine the possibilities of not only helping others in the name of Jesus, but having that excitement spread throughout our churches, communities and even farther as those proclaim the love of Jesus!

Prayer: Heavenly Father: As we journey through this time after Easter into Pentecost, allow Your Holy Spirit to work through us. Help us to raise up those who are suffering. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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