



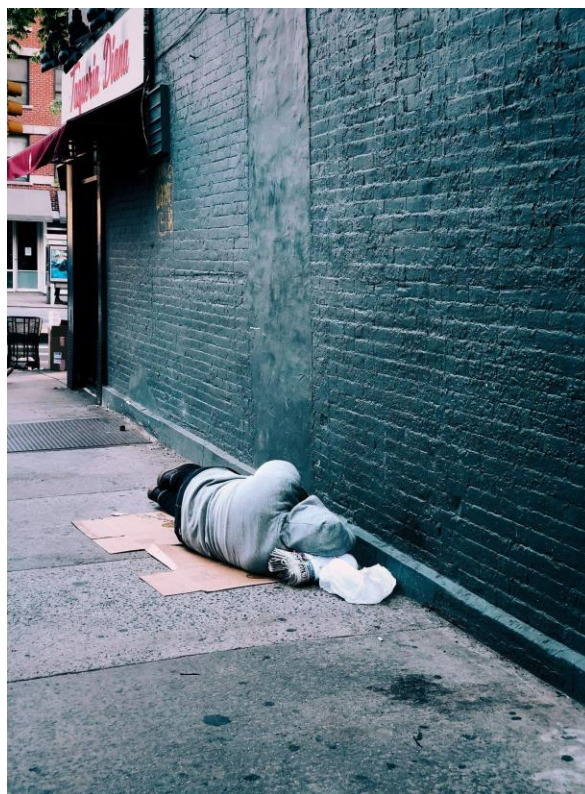
Near and Now

When My Calling Brings Joy - Peter and the Man at the Beautiful Gate

By Jasmine DeLara

Warm-up Question

What do you remember about a time when you were very sick or hurt?



Picture by Jon Tyson on [Unsplash](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

He Entered the Temple Walking and Leaping and Praising God

Read [Acts 3:1-10](#)

Bible Story Reflection

In Romans 5, Paul speaks about hope saying, “And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:2-5). The story of Peter and the lame man embodies this type of hope.

The beggar, who we are not given much information about, was existing at the hands of his friends who helped him every day. He spent his days begging to get by. When Peter and John came up to him, they were not able to give to him financially, but they had a different, more powerful gift to give. The gift of healing through Christ. How many times have we passed by a homeless person and either given them a dollar or nothing at all? Although giving to those in need is good, we have missed the opportunity for authentic ministry. In modern times, we pray for healing miracles less, why is that? We can’t always give financially, but we can always give the gift of prayer to those going through hard times.

The beggar at the Beautiful gate is a great example of finding joy not from financial stability but with a strong foundation in Christ. Verse seven points out that he was *instantly* healed and made strong, after a whole life of not being strong enough he was able to leap up from the ground. The beggar did not run to show his friends or family that he was healed, he went into the temple with Peter and John and praised God for being healed. He is a reminder to find joy in our sufferings as it produces hope, hope in God’s plan to work in our lives at the exact right time.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you resonate with this passage?
2. In what ways do you have dissonance with this passage? What challenges you about this passage?
3. What did this lame man do for a living? How do you think he felt about his condition?
4. Who do you identify with in the story the most? The disciples (Peter & John)? The crippled man? The onlookers? Explain.
5. When have you witnessed God’s miraculous healing power at work?
6. We were challenged through this passage to offer people what we have—the gospel and the power of the Spirit. What does that look like, practically? How would you share your faith with someone? How do you pray for others?
7. What have you been asking God for lately? Do you think there maybe something else that God is trying to offer you right now instead?
8. How can you be the presence of the God who heals within your community this week?

Activity Suggestions

In what ways do you need healing prayers? How could you step out in faith right now and ask your group to pray for you? Stand in a circle and take turns praying for each other, focus on the specific ways you need healing in your life.

Examine your beliefs and habits, make a list of them. Many of us hold onto beliefs that we learned as children, and they can influence how we engage in social justice. Positive action toward inclusion and advocacy begins at home. Becoming a strong ally in a social justice movement requires ongoing self-reflection, learning, and openness to growth.

Keep a gratitude log, similar to this one.

Prayer Concerns

Those who have been marginalized, those who need healing of any type, those who have lost hope.

Closing Prayer

Your grace has made me anew, O God. Make me bold to proclaim your wondrous works. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.



Gratitude Log

<p>Celebrate Gratitude <i>List 5 things you are grateful for</i></p>	<p>People I'm grateful for <i>List three people that make your life happier</i></p>
<p>Hard lessons I've learned <i>List three challenges and what you are learning from them</i></p>	<p>Greatest memories <i>Recall and write a few of your favorite memories</i></p>