

## Marked by Miracles

**Acts 2:42-43 NIV** - 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

**Acts 3:1-10 NIV** - 1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer —at three in the afternoon. 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. 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!"** 5 So the man gave them his attention, **expecting to get something from them.** 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." 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.** 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, and **they were filled with wonder and amazement** at what had happened to him.

**3 ways we see miracles happen.**

### 1. Miracles happen when we look for them

**Acts 3:4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John.**

They noticed the man. They looked at him intently and made a connection...look at me. Peter & John took a different approach. They stopped. Made sure he was looking at them!

**Jesus was always moved with compassion for people. Was never in a hurry.**

**Busyness causes us to miss the miracles God wants to do.**

The greatest miracles God does in our lives...don't often happen within our schedules.

He was poor, but the bigger issue was that He was lame. Wanted money but needed his legs. **He wanted some change...they had a different kind of change for him.**

**Acts 3:6 - 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."**

They didn't have money but they did have expectation and authority.

### 2. Miracles happen when we expect them

God meets us at our level of expectation. Why don't we expect it?

**We have lowered our level of expectation and raised our level of doubt.** - Disappointment lives in the gap between expectations and reality. We don't want to be disappointed.

We don't doubt God CAN do a miracle...often we doubt whether He WILL do it for us.

- I don't doubt God CAN provide, I doubt He WILL provide for me.
- I don't doubt God CAN heal, I doubt He WILL heal for me.
- I don't doubt God CAN open doors, I doubt He WILL open doors for me.
- **Jesus healed every time someone asked.** - Luke 5 man with leprosy...Jesus said "I Will"

We don't step out in faith because of how we think it will make us look if nothing happens. -  
**Many times our faith isn't in God, it's in our own level of faith**

*Acts 3:7 - **Taking him by the right hand**, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.*

**Luke 10:17-20 ESV** - *"The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" 18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

The greatest miracle is salvation! - We have an easier time believing for salvation then believing God wants to do a miracle in our lives right now on this side of heaven.

**God wants to work miracles IN you and THROUGH you**

**John 14:12 NLT** - *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*

**Mark 16:17-18 NLT** - *17 These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. 18 They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."*

**We don't chase miracles...we chase God and miracles and signs follow.**

### **3. Miracles happen when God get's the glory**

*Acts 3:9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God.- v10 They were filled with wonder and amazement.*

**Miracles are God's way of validating He is who he says He is.**

*"From a distance everything looks like a miracle but up close even a miracle doesn't appear so. Even someone who crossed the Red Sea when it split only saw the sweaty back of the one in front of him." - a poem called Miracles.*

*I want us to raise our level of expectation and our faith as a Church...to believe God for miracles, to be a people marked by miracles.*