

INTRO

- Have you ever had the opportunity to do something or meet someone interesting or unique?

READ

Acts 3:1-16

Qu: what's your immediate reaction on hearing this story?

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this first miracle documented in the early church, we see precedence for how Jesus wants to move in the lives of those around us. Note how this miracle occurs in the ordinariness of everyday life. What can we learn from it? There is always opportunity in the ordinary for followers of Jesus if we have eyes to see.

EYES OPEN - perception of opportunity

Often in scripture, the pattern for moving into action is: GO → SEE → FEEL → DO. For example, later in Acts, Paul *goes* to Athens, *sees* the city full of idols, is deeply *distressed*, and begins to *engage* them with the gospel. Jesus often *saw* the crowds, had *compassion* on them, and *responded* to them whether by teaching, healing, delivering etc.

- *Qu: As you go about your day-to-day life, how can you become more perceptive of opportunities to bear witness to Jesus? Or*
- *What opportunity is God leading you to see/feel/do?*

EYES FORWARD - purpose in opportunity

As opportunities arise, what's our purpose in them? To evangelize and convert people? To campaign for justice? To meet their needs? The lame man's miracle reminds us that Jesus has come to redeem and restore all that was broken—physically, socially, spiritually (Acts 3:21).

The purpose of opportunity is to reveal Jesus and to bring his kingdom into that situation. Each situation/relationship needs discernment and wisdom to know what that looks like.

Sometimes we narrow “witnessing to others” as sharing a message of salvation from sin. Yet, bearing witness to Jesus can take on so many wonderful, relevant and life-giving forms as seen by his ministry to others.

- *Qu: Brainstorm: what ways could bearing witness to Jesus look like in various situations?*

EYES FOCUSED - power for opportunity

Sometimes we feel powerless in the face of the need around us. Sometimes we look at the sin in our own lives and shrink back from opportunity. So read Acts 3:12, 16 again.

- *Qu: who does Peter tell us to focus on? How does this empower you in the opportunities to minister to others?*

This first miracle reminds us that there is opportunity around us to bear witness to the good news of Jesus in word, deed and power. Spend time praying along these lines.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for fresh eyes to see opportunity in your life to minister to others
- Pray for opportunity if there seems to be a lack of that right now.
- Pray for God to use you to bring healing to those around you.