

2009

Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

# Jesus Changes Our Walk

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

**Jesus Changes Our Walk***Wednesday, November 4, 2009*

Bob Bradley

**Acts 3:1-11**

- 1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.*
- 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;*
- 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.*
- 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.*
- 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.*
- 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*
- 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*
- 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.*
- 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:*
- 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.*
- 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.*

When we look at what is going on here in the book of Acts and if we read chapter two; we know that the church was born in chapter two. We know that when the fellows, the hundred and twenty-two believers were gathered together, Jewish men were gathered together and they were praying; we know the Spirit of God came and it fell upon them...like cloven tongues of fire and so forth. And as we know the church today was born. Before that time we know the Spirit of God did come from different times and would abide with people and infiltrate people and fill people with His presence to help them and empower them to do certain things. We know that happened many times in the Old Testament.

Here when we get to Acts chapter two; something completely different happens. The Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost comes and He indwells all those that believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord. That is completely different than it had been. Things were changing. We were going from the Old Testament law into a new economy, into some new things. It was a learning process for all of the people that were here.

As we look at chapter three, the Bible says that Peter and John—if you read the gospels, you will find out that many times Peter and John were together. They were buddies. They were prayer partners. It's great today to be able to have somebody that you can call your buddy. It is great to have someone that you can call your friend. It is great to have someone that you can talk to and pray with. It is great to have someone that you can go and worship with, someone that you can have confidence in knowing that you can talk to them and know that they are not going to tell everybody. That is a great blessing.

Peter and John, no doubt; they were like that. They were fishermen. We understand they were fishermen. They were people that we would look at as being a little bit rough on the edges. They were tough. One thing about Peter and John is that they were dedicated people and they loved the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew that He was the Savior.

The Bible says that they went up to Temple together. Again, it's great to be able to pray together. It's great to be able to worship together. It's great to be able to hang out together.

I thought we had a great time in fellowship last night after our lessons and things. We went out there in the fellowship hall and just ate and had a great time at fellowship. People were just having a good time being together. That's wonderful. That's a great part of being a Christian is being able to have fellowship with each other and having things in common. If we are saved then we have something in common and that is that God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Therefore, we have some things in common.

***1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.***

Remember something. We are in the transition period from the Old Testament to the New Testament; from under the law and all the things that the people did under the law being Jewish men. They did many different things under the law. Peter and John were still yet going to the Temple. They hadn't understood some things. Until we get to Acts chapter 10, we know that there is a great big transition period here and things are changing. Peter and John, as well as the disciples, were learning and changing. As we read, we know that multitudes and literally thousands and thousands of people are being saved and being born into the Family of God. They are still yet going to the Temple. They did not understand at this time that a lot of things that were going on at the Temple did not need to be going on. We were entering into a new phase. They didn't understand that and we understand why. However, they were going up here and they were going up here to pray.

The Bible says they were going up here being the ninth hour of the day which would mean around 3:00 in the afternoon. The Jews had at least three different times a day that they would pray. They would pray at nine o'clock in the morning. They would pray at noon and they would pray at 3:00 in the afternoon. Peter and John were still yet praying. They were still going and they were praying.

It's great that we, when we have time and take time to sit down and call upon Almighty God. These guys here had three specific times each day that they would pray; not only these guys but the Jewish people. We know that Daniel prayed. Do you remember when you read back in the book of Daniel and the decree was made that the people were not supposed to pray unto any other God but to the king. We know that Daniel went and opened his window toward heaven and prayed like he always had before. That's what we need to be doing. We need to be praying. We need to have times in our life that we get alone with God and pour our hearts out to God.

This is where they were going. They were going up there to pray.

It's great to pray when we come to church. Isn't it? It is wonderful to be able to pray.

***2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;***

Peter and John are going to the Temple. I don't know how many years they have been coming or how long they have been coming. However, they are going up here and they are going to encounter someone here that they are going to be able to be a tremendous blessing to. The Bible says that there was a certain man here lame from his mother's womb. When we turn over to chapter 4 verses 22—I believe it is—we will find out that this guy who is lame here has been like this for at least 40 years because we know he is at least 40 years old. He has been like this for a long time. Here he is lying at the gate that goes in to the temple. They Bible say it calls it the beautiful gate. It was probably a very beautiful gate. It was probably made out of bronze or some kind of brass. I would say that when the sun hit; it would really sparkle and glisten. I would say that it was a beautiful gate, a beautiful place. As they would look at the temple; there is no doubt in my mind that the temple was a very beautiful place.

Here this guy is laying here; I don't how long he has laid here. I don't know how many years he has laid here. I don't know how many years they have brought him here and laid him here. I know on this particular day he is laying here and it is going to be a great day for this man. It was going to be a day that was going to change the rest of his life. I thought about this guy. Here he is; they have brought him here this day and there is no doubt in my mind they have brought him here, he thought he was going to come here and he was going to beg all day long. They were going to come back and get him that evening and take him home. He was just hoping here that he was going to be able to get enough money just to be able to live and sustain him. The great thing was that when he left here on this day he was going to get a whole lot more than he had ever anticipated.

I'm glad tonight, that when you and I come to Jesus Christ we get a whole more than we ever thought that we were going to get. Do you know what I'm glad of tonight?

This guy here was lame. He had been this way all of his life. I don't know the entire situation, but I know that he could not walk. I know that he had problems.

People who are unsaved today; they cannot walk. They cannot walk today in a way that can please Almighty God. There was a time in my life and there was a time in your life; my manner of life did not please Almighty God. Isn't it great? Can you remember the time? Can you remember the hour? Can you remember the moment that Jesus Christ moved in and then things changed? Isn't that great to know? It's great to know that.

Here this guy was and there is no doubt in my mind that he thought this was just going to be another day. He was going to lay here and they were going to come and get him. However, there were two guys here going to temple on this particular day and they were going to see this man here. I don't know how many times they may have seen him. I don't know how many times that they may have walked passed this guy. I don't really know all about that. I do know one thing and that is that this day was going to be a different day.

I thought about Peter and John. Do you know what God is going to do? God is going to use them in a great way to be a blessing unto this man. Do you know why He was going to do that? He was going to do that because Peter and John were people who were praying. They were going to the house of God to pray. If you want God to use you then spend some time alone with God in praying. If you want God to use you to tell others about Him then spend some time praying. There is nothing like getting alone with God. When we get alone with God, then God can and will infuse us with power that we can be a blessing to people. God does that. Doesn't He? He'll do that for me and He'll do that for you if we will just spend some time alone with Him.

***2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;***

He is laying here at this gate. He probably thinks that everything is just going to be like it has been, but Peter and John is going to make a difference in this guy's life. They are going to make a difference in this guy. The Bible says here that he is laying here. They have carried him here daily. He lay at the gate daily. No doubt it is a very beautiful gate. He is laying here asking alms. He is just laying here begging.

I can remember a time in my life that I was just exactly like that. When I was a sinner, we were just beggars. We didn't have anything and you did not either. We didn't have anything that could please Almighty God. We were just beggars and that's all that we were. I'm glad that we are kings tonight. I'm glad that when God looks at His people He sees saints. He sees people who have been set apart for His own glory. That does not mean that we are sinless. That does not mean that we don't have thoughts and problems. However, it does mean that we belong unto Him. I say "Glory to His name that I know that I belong to Him and He is my Savior. He knows who I am." Isn't that great to know? That should excite us that we are saved tonight. Shouldn't it?

The Bible says here this guy is and Peter and John are there. They probably went to Temple all of their life. However, on this particular day it was going to be a different day for them and it was going to be a different day for a man that had been lame for at least forty years. Do you know what happens sometimes? There is no doubt in my mind that this guy here thought "I'm going to be lame till I die. I'm never going to be able to walk. I've been born this way. For whatever reason, this is my lot in life. I'm going to live this way till I die. When I die then whatever happens is going to happen." There is no doubt in my mind that he thought that a lot; that there is never going to be a change. However, where the people of God are, where Jesus Christ is at then there is change.

***3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.***

Here this hopeless man sits with no hope at all. If you would have talked to this guy on this particular day; I promise you, the last thing he would have been thinking about would have been walking out of here on his own power. Again, it is so wonderful how that God can change people's lives. He can change our walk. I'm glad when people get saved they have a different. We don't walk like we used to. We don't go to the same places that we used to go. We don't talk like we used to talk. We don't curse and swear and we don't sin like we used to. Do you know why? It is because we are brand new creatures in Christ Jesus. I may look the same and you may look the same on the outside but on this

inside we are brand new people. Many of us don't look the same. Do you know that? If you had known me thirty some years ago before I got saved, I promise you I don't look a thing like I do now. I probably smell a little better tonight too. God changes people.

He looks up and he sees some hope. What he is hoping for is that Peter and John will give him some money. He hopes that Peter and John will give him some money to put in his little can or jar or whatever he had out here. He was hoping here to get some money from. This is what this guy thought he needed. He really thought that he needed money. He really thought that he needed some money to be able to go and buy him some things; the necessities of life. The necessities of life are needful. We need to eat. We need clothes and we need to have all kinds of different things. However, this guy was going to understand that he needed something more than he needed money and he was going to find it on this particular day.

I would to God that you and I a lot of times would understand that there are more important things in life than having money. I was talking to a little girl this morning out at the school. She walked up and she said, "Preacher, would you do me a favor? Would you please pray for my new mommy?" I got to thinking about that. That broke my heart. I don't know what that little kid is going through at home. I don't have any idea but she didn't need money. Money is not going to change her situation. She needed some help that comes from Almighty God.

Friend, listen. That is what you and I need tonight. People need things that money cannot buy. What people need today is to have a relationship with the God of heaven. That is what we need today. Please pray for that young lady. I forgot to request prayer for her. She needs prayer. We meet a lot of kids like that. You would be surprised at some of the little notes that kids give you and hands you then walks away about some of the things that they face at home and every day. You would be surprised. These kids—we are blessed that we can take them chewing gum, candy bars and things like that as we go out there. That is probably all they get sometimes. You wouldn't think that taking a pack of chewing gum that some of the kids would be as thankful as they are. All the kids are not smart alecks. Do you know that? All the kids are not idiots. All the kids are not drug addicts. We have some good kids around here. We have kids that are very respectful.

What I want to talk about tonight is this guy. He is going to find something here tonight that was going to be worth more than money. He was hoping to get some money from Peter and John however; he was going find something that was going to be worth a whole lot more than that.

***4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.***

Do you know what happens here? Here comes Peter and John. They are walking towards the temple. They are about to walk up the steps that goes towards the temple. Here this guy is sitting here and they see each other. He asked alms. Do you know what he says? He says, "Do you guys have any spare change? Have you guys got anything that can help me here?" Do you know what the Bible says here that Peter says? Peter fastened his eyes upon him with John and said, look on us. Do you know what Peter and John could have done here? When this guy asked alms they could have just kept on walking.

They could have just shoved him aside and said hey, this is the beggar that has been lying here all the time.

As Christian people, we need to be people who in prayer for people and we need to be people who when we see needs those needs will get our attention. This guy here had a need that money could not fix. Peter and John understood the great power of Almighty God. They had seen Jesus do some great things. They knew that He was alive. When this guy left here on this day he was going to know that Jesus Christ was alive.

Do you know that He is alive tonight? Do you really know that He is alive? Do you really know beyond any shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ is alive? Everybody should say Amen on that! If you are saved you should know that. If you don't know that then you might want to check and make sure that you are saved. Truth? He's alive. The enemy is a great imitator. He slips people counterfeits all the time. I talked to people quite often. If you talk to them five or ten minutes they will tell you they are church members is what they will tell you. I belong to this church or I've been baptized. However, if you talk to them five minutes they don't whether Jesus Christ is alive or not because they won't tell you about a born again experience. They can tell you about being baptized. They can tell you about when they were confirmed. They can tell you a lot of different things but they can't tell you a time when Jesus Christ forgave them of their sin. If that has never happened to you, then you are not saved. I'm not being judgmental when I say that; that's the book.

***4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.***

"Look on us." When you look at the phrase "fastening his eyes upon him" in the original it means that they stopped and they glared or they gazed. It was an intense look. It wasn't just a look in passing, where they glanced over and kept walking. When they heard this guy ask alms it got their attention. They stopped and stared at this guy.

It is one thing to be able to be a prayer warrior. It's one thing to be able to see someone's need, but it's altogether something else to be able to stop and offer some help to people in need. We can pray till our hair falls out if that is all that we do then don't accomplish a whole lot. We can go down the streets and see all the needs that people have; if that is all that we do is pray and see needs then that really doesn't change anything for them. Does it? It is something when we do see people's needs and we stop and want to help them. That is what Christian people should be doing. That is what you and I should be doing as Christian people is seeking the face of God and asking God to infuse us and give us the power that we need to be able to see those who are hurting and those who are in need; those are the ones that I want to talk to. Those are the ones that I want to find. Those are the ones that I want to get to; those that will listen, and those that need our help and want our help.

There are many who want our money but does not want our help. They want God to do something for them in a great way but they really don't want God in their life. The Bible says this.

***5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.***

In other words, when Peter and John fastened their eyes upon him and said “Look on us” he looked at them expecting to get something from them.

***6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***

Now here this guy is sitting here with some kind of a jar, can or bowl. He wants to get a few coins. He was hoping to get something in his jar. Peter says, “Fellow, I’m going to tell you something right now. We don’t have any money.” If you read back in chapter two, Peter had already given it all away. Do you know why? He gave it all away because he had already saw people in need. He said to this guy:

***6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***

Do you know what Peter already understood? Peter had already been infused with the power of God in heaven on high. Peter already knew what it meant to be able to go out and heal people. He had already had that power. He had already been preaching and teaching and healing people. He didn’t have any money but he knew this guy didn’t really need any money. What this guy really needed was to be saved and healed. That is what this guy needed. Do you know what Peter understood also? He understood that money could not buy that.

We studied on Sunday, about silver and gold. We were not redeemed with those corruptible things. We have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter said to this man here, “Such as I have, give I thee in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.” That is where the power is at. It is in His name. It is in the name of our Savior. Do you know what I cannot do? I cannot do anything in my own name. I cannot do one thing in my own name. However, in the name of Jesus Christ we can do great things and you can too. We all can. It would be amazing; it would be shocking to some of us if we understood how much power that we have and use it; not in our own power, not in our own strength, not in our own abilities, but in the name of Jesus Christ. He is the source of all the power. He is the source of the power that it takes to transform your life and in my life. He is the source; He is the originator of the power that it takes to cure cancer, and to raise the dead. It is His power. The power is through Him, to heal people with incurable diseases. It is in His power. It is in His name. He has the power to do that.

You might say, “Preacher, you shouldn’t tell people that.” If I wouldn’t tell you that then I wouldn’t be much of a preacher. I wouldn’t be much of a preacher to tell you that God cannot heal because God can heal and God does heal. He does not do it every day. He does not do it in ways that I understand but I know that He does heal. Do you know why? It is because I have experienced that. You all know that.

I had migraine headaches all of my life and sometimes I could not even see where I was going. Do you know what? A few years ago, I believe that it was on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, when I sought the face of Almighty God and God healed me on that day. I have never had a migraine headache since and if I live to be 110, I’ll never have another one. Do you know why? I will never have another migraine headache

because He healed me of that. He's alive. Not only can He heal our souls but He can heal our bodies. Hallelujah! He's alive.

Jesus Christ is alive. He does heal.

***6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***

Do you know what he didn't say? He didn't say, "Excuse me sir, are you a Baptist?" He didn't ask him that. "Do you go to church?" He didn't ask him that. He didn't ask him if he was a Methodist or a catholic. He didn't ask any of those things. He just simply made a command. He said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have, give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." That is all he said. Isn't it? That's all he said.

We get hung up on a lot of things today, but isn't it wonderful that the source of power that you and I need comes from Almighty God. It is not because we are Baptist, Methodist, or Pentecostal. It is because we are Christians. It is because we are saved people.

This guy here didn't know anything about anything. Peter said, "Rise up and walk."

***7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.***

This guy here; they reach down and take him by the hand and do you know what he does? His ankles and his feet started receiving strength. Do you know what he does? He leaps up. He just didn't gradually start walking; but he leaps up. Do you know why? It is because Jesus changes our walk. Doesn't He?

Do you know what some of us would have done if we would have been there? We would have been moaning. We would want people to continue to feel sorry for us so we would have just kept hopping along. People are like that. There are people who don't want God to heal them because then they wouldn't have anything to complain about. They would complain something else if he did.

I'm not making fun of anybody; I promise I'm not. I know people have issues.

***8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.***

How would you like to have been this guy? Do you think this guy was happy? I promise you this guy was happy! Like I said in the beginning; there are days in our life and times in our life that we may go forever and ever and we think that this is the way that it is always going to be and we are going to die this way. Sometimes we just give up hope. Friend, listen. This guy was like this for 40 years. Don't ever give up hope. People may let you down. Church people will let you down. Preachers and pastors will let you down. However, Jesus Christ will never let you down.

This guy gets up and he's walking and praising God. As you read that, I hope you feel the excitement that must have been in this guy's life when he jumps up. He can walk. He is just jumping everywhere. He's walking and leaping. He's praising God.

Do you know what that should for you and me? It wouldn't hurt us sometimes to be a little more emotional in our experience with God. We are not saved by emotions and we don't live by emotions, but I'm glad that there is emotion that goes with this thing. I'm glad that God is a God that touches our emotions. I'm glad that God is a God that from time to time He stirs us and sometimes it gets emotional. I'm glad that sometimes we can go down the road in our automobile and we get emotional. We can just cry out and pray unto Almighty God. Nobody else is around. We are not trying to make any scenes. It is great that God can touch us. Isn't it? He can touch us where we are put together at and let us know that He's alive. When He does that out there do you know what I want to do? I want to let people know that my God is alive. Don't you? I've got something to be shouting about, something to be praising Him about.

He goes in the temple here. Many of us when God does something for us; we don't see them at church forever and ever. Do you know what this guy does? That is the first thing he does. He goes into the temple here. He is walking, leaping and praising God and all the people saw him walking and praising God.

***9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:***

***10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.***

Do you know what they saw? They saw a difference in this guy. They understood that it was him. They understood that this was the guy who lay there every day, who could not walk and now they see him running, jumping and praising God. Do you know what they did? They wondered. They were filled with amazement. That's what God does. When God changes somebody's life, a lot of people wonder. It is amazing to some people when some people get saved. Do you know that?

***11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.***

Friend, listen. Jesus Christ makes the difference. He makes the difference in my life and He makes the difference in your life. Do you know what He can do? He can change your life tonight if you will just surrender your life unto Him.

The same awesome power that changed this guy's life on this particular day is still operational and very active tonight on planet earth. Do you know what Jesus Christ is still yet doing? He is still yet transforming people's lives. He is still yet saving people tonight. Do you know He will do? I don't care where you are at tonight; if you will come to Jesus Christ tonight, ask Him to forgive you of your sin; you can have a different walk tonight. You can leave with a brand new relationship with God. He will change you tonight. **Will you come?**