

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 7, 2026**

**“Marks of the Early Church ~ Transformed Living”**

**Psalm 30 Acts 3:1-10 Mark 2:1-12**

A frightened and uncertain group of disciples became a bold, \_\_\_\_\_, Spirit-filled community that would eventually carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth. They weren't perfect people, but they were a Spirit-shaped people, learning to live \_\_\_\_\_ life together.

Luke is doing more here than just recording a miraculous healing. He's showing us that the ministry of Jesus didn't \_\_\_\_\_ with His ascension into heaven. The same Jesus who healed the paralytic in our Gospel reading from Mark 2 is still at work through His \_\_\_\_\_. The same Jesus who forgave sins, restored lives, and welcomed the broken is continuing His work through \_\_\_\_\_ believers filled with the Holy Spirit.

One of the most striking features of the early church is that wherever Jesus was proclaimed, lives were \_\_\_\_\_. The power of Christ wasn't just something they talked about; it was something people could \_\_\_\_\_.

The same Jesus who transformed lives in the first century is still transforming lives today. And so, the question isn't whether Jesus has the power to change people; it's whether we're \_\_\_\_\_ to bring our brokenness to Him and trust Him to do what only He can do.

**Lesson #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the first things that stands out in both of our readings is that Jesus meets people at the point of their deepest \_\_\_\_\_.

“Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give to you...” (Acts 3:6)

The man was looking for a handout; however, Jesus was about to give him a new \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, we encounter someone who's helpless, someone who can't \_\_\_\_\_ his own condition, someone who must rely entirely on the mercy of others. And once again, Jesus meets him where he's \_\_\_\_\_.

Again and again, God meets people not in their strength, but in their \_\_\_\_\_, so that His \_\_\_\_\_ can be manifested in and through them.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Whether it's physical struggles, grief, anxiety, loneliness, regrets from the past, or wounds that no one else can see, we often work very hard to \_\_\_\_\_ our struggles from others. We want people to think we have everything \_\_\_\_\_. And so, we put on a brave face and tell everyone we're fine.

However, the great thing about Jesus is that He isn't \_\_\_\_\_ by appearances. He always \_\_\_\_\_ what's beneath the surface—the pain we try hide, the fears we try to bury, and the burdens we carry—and He meets us there.

One of the dangers in the Christian life is believing that we need to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves before coming to Jesus.

“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

They knew that ministry wasn't about finding \_\_\_\_\_ people, but about bringing broken people into contact with a perfect \_\_\_\_\_. And that remains the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church today.

Jesus meets us exactly where we're at, but He \_\_\_\_\_ us too much to leave us there.

**Lesson #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.” (Acts 3:6-7)

There's no lengthy recovery period, no physical therapy, no gradual improvement. Strength \_\_\_\_\_ flows into legs that have never supported his weight. Ankles that have never functioned suddenly become strong.

As astonishing as the physical healing is, Luke wants us to look \_\_\_\_\_ the miracle itself, as Peter will soon make it clear that this wasn't about his own power or John's faith. It was all \_\_\_\_\_. The same \_\_\_\_\_ that raised Jesus from the dead was now at work through His Church.

“Son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mark 2:5)

““But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.”” (Mark 2:10-11)

The physical healing \_\_\_\_\_ the deeper reality that Jesus possesses authority

not only over bodies, but also over \_\_\_\_\_. The miracle points beyond itself to the greater miracle of \_\_\_\_\_.

As wonderful as physical healing is, it's only \_\_\_\_\_.

However, the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are \_\_\_\_\_. The greatest miracle isn't that a lame man walked; it's that sinners are \_\_\_\_\_ to God through Jesus Christ.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

That's \_\_\_\_\_—not self-improvement or behaviour modification.

The Gospel is all about transformation—Jesus taking what sin has damaged and \_\_\_\_\_ it, repairing what's broken, \_\_\_\_\_ what's been neglected, and rebuilding what seems beyond repair.

One of the enemy's greatest lies is convincing people that they can't \_\_\_\_\_.

Now, not all transformation happens \_\_\_\_\_. God often works slowly, patiently shaping us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. The fruit of the Spirit grows over time, and character is formed through daily \_\_\_\_\_. However, whether the change is sudden or gradual, the source is the same—it's the power of \_\_\_\_\_.

The message of Acts 3 isn't that every \_\_\_\_\_ disappears overnight; it's that Jesus is able to do what we can't do for ourselves.

They knew that they possessed no power of their own, and everything they accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ from Christ. As result, their lives became a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ because people could see the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' transforming power.

**Lesson #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

"And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God." (Acts 3:8)

His joy overflows and his \_\_\_\_\_ can't be contained. This is the natural response of someone who's experienced the transforming power of Christ. When God changes a life, \_\_\_\_\_ follows.

The healed man doesn't stop to admire his own legs, congratulate himself, or draw

attention to Peter and John. His attention turns towards \_\_\_\_\_. The healing didn't just change his circumstances; it changed his \_\_\_\_\_.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6)

The man's transformed life not only leads to worship; it also becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.

"And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms." (Acts 3:9-10)

The miracle opens the door for \_\_\_\_\_.

A lighthouse's purpose isn't to draw attention to itself, but to point sailors safely toward the harbour. The same is true of a transformed Christian life. Our goal isn't to draw attention to ourselves, but to \_\_\_\_\_ people to Christ.

Some of the most powerful witness happens long before a word is spoken; when people see Christ at \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Notice the goal—not that people would praise us or admire the church, but that they'd \_\_\_\_\_ God.

None of us are finished products—we're all works in \_\_\_\_\_. Yet, there should be some \_\_\_\_\_ that Christ is at work.

The goal of the Christian life isn't \_\_\_\_\_ overnight; it's \_\_\_\_\_ over time.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Transformed lives are living testimonies to the power of Christ, leading others to worship and \_\_\_\_\_.



Christianity isn't just about learning \_\_\_\_\_ or maintaining traditions—important as these things are. At its heart, Christianity is about a living \_\_\_\_\_ with a living Saviour who still \_\_\_\_\_ lives.