

4/14/24 sermon Acts 3 1-10

For those watching from home now or later, when we were doing prayer concerns, I said to make sure and pray for Ernie, because he had been in a car accident this week. And it was me driving the car that he was in. The two of us were in the car driving along the interstate over by that switch at Hickman and Douglas. And we are driving, and we're driving and we are watching this car and we both at the exact same time say she is going to hit us and she did. She drove right into the side of my truck. Totally demolished the front end of her car and I got a little paint on mine. So we are fine. A little stiff, but nothing bad.

And we had just been talking about what I was going to say today. And I told him, well Ernie each week I plan about four messages and by the time Sunday comes I don't say any of them, and obviously I am

But while we were standing there waiting for the police to come up, I was like this is a really good example of tomorrow's scripture reading because she didn't see us. She was driving, and she could not see my big truck next to her. I am like how can you not see something that big. Well she was talking and she was focused on other things. She wasn't paying attention to what was directly right in front of her. She was focused on a million other things. There were 3 other people in the car. You could see them all talking, vaping, doing whatever else in the car, talking on their phones. They just were not focused on what was directly there.

In our scripture reading today, the beggar was so focused on trying to get money he didn't see Peter and John in front of him. He didn't see them there. Luke makes a point out of saying what time of day it is. He makes a point to say that it is 3 o'clock in the afternoon. That is the second time of day that people would go to the temple to make their offerings. That is the time of day they would all be going into the temple to pray to make their sacrifices. They would be doing this during this time. The beggar is there trying to hit up every single person that he can because the more money he can get, the more that is going into his pocket. And he doesn't really care. That's why Peter made a point of saying, "Look at us." Because it made him stop. It made him realize who was talking to him. It made him realize that something big was going to happen.

We have to do that a lot. We have to do that with Wednesday. Wednesday is a great example of having to tell her to stop and look at us before she does something. Kids are always running around, especially at that age. And obviously in their twenties. They are doing a million things at once. And we are all guilty of that. We will be doing so many things. I don't know how many times I will be sitting there with my phone out and I am answering emails on that, and I have my tablet out and I am doing something else on that, and I have a video playing in the background. And I have music playing. And Wednesday is always there playing or Mom is yelling at me about something. You never know what is going to happen. But there is always something going on. I am just as guilty as anyone else.

Sometimes we forget to take that second. We forget that Jesus has done all of this for us and we need to be reminded of that. You know Peter and John stopped him and said hey look at us. We are going to do something greater for you than you ever imagined but you have to stop and look. You have to stop and hear. You have to stop and live in this moment.

I was talking with preacher Sam this week. This topic came up because we were discussing which is more important. Actual authority that I have or perceived authority that you think I have.

Which is more important.? And in his mind, it is actual authority. So it would be back when we were reading Mark Chapter 2 Jesus healed another person. They lowered him through the roof at Zebediah's house and he said your sins are forgiven and he stood up and he walked. And Jesus made the point of saying that for him it wasn't necessary for him to tell the man to stand. It was simply more important for him and his faith that his sins were forgiven.

See the authority that he had. The authority that Jesus said, he could simply say we are going to do this, you are going to get better, and we are going to move on. Obviously Jesus wouldn't have said it like that. Now Peter and John have authority, but he hasn't noticed who they are and he doesn't care. But the second they say look at us. Now he knows they have authority. And they can say stand up and he does because now he believes that authority has been given to them as well because they said it had. Even though nothing had changed. Nothing had changed in that moment other than he was paying attention. He was looking at them and he took that second to accept God's love. He took that second to embrace Jesus's teaching.

All of us in this room know Jesus's teachings and God's love. We all know how to live a righteous life. We all know that we want everyone to live that life. And a big thing that we do is that we try to share that. I don't know who here has facebook, I know a number of you do. This week there was a big discussion on the Madrid Media Network. I do not encourage reading the Madrid Media Network if you do not have to but there was a big discussion this week on someone new moving to town and they wanted to know about the churches. There were a lot of people on that page saying how great our church is. We were showing our authority on God's love. Our authority on God's love and wanting the community to grow and our authority on sharing it. Because we are all that excited and that happy to be here and be together and to share this love that we want everybody to know.

Now facebook has seen it, so it is true. If it is on Facebook it is true and we know it is true. We are proud enough of our love of God and our love of each other that we will share that at all times. We are taking our authority and sharing it with the community. It is not just that we know we have it, now it is perceived out there in the group. The community knows that we have it too. And we can continue and share that love with everyone.