

9. In what ways can modern Christians be like the devout people walking into the temple?

10. Who would the crippled man represent today?

In the message, Pastor Kory said, “Both sinners and religious people alike can live our lives and completely forget about Jesus. And Peter’s message to us is to repent—to stop going one way, and turn and go the other way. He doesn’t see the life of going through the motions any different than living in sin. Both focus on the wrong thing.”

11. What wrong things do Christians sometimes focus on?

12. What does it mean to “repent of those things and turn the other way?”

13. What do you think it means to “live in Jesus’ name?”

### Exercise: Living in Jesus’ Name

Determine one day that you will practice living in Jesus’ name. Go through your regular routine (work, gym, family time, social time, etc.) and imagine Jesus walking beside you everywhere you go.

- Pay attention to how it changes the way you look at people and interact with them.
- Take time every couple of hours to reflect on the way you interacted with people.
  - How did your attitude reflect Jesus’ attitude toward people and circumstances?
  - How did it affect what you said?
  - How does it affect what you notice about people—particularly people who are hurting?

Make it a habit to practice this discipline regularly until it become natural for you.

## Roots: Well on Our Way

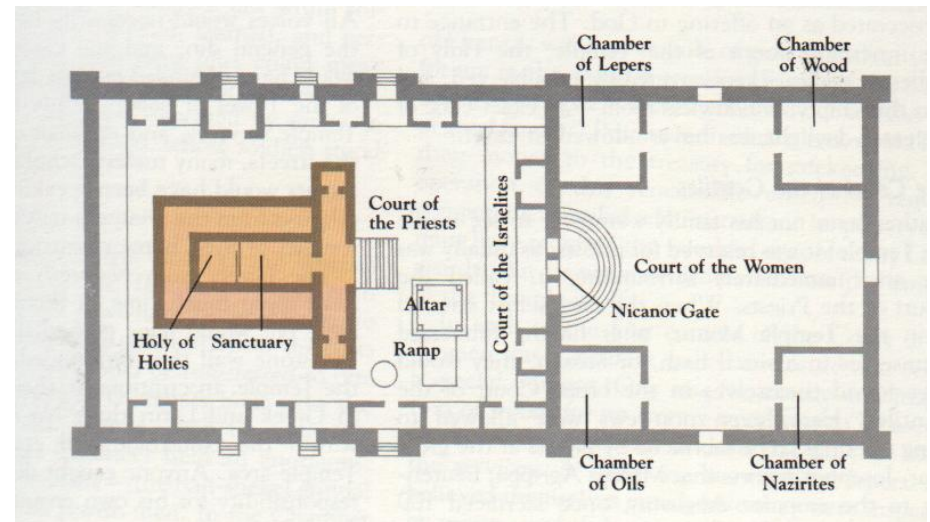
### Sermon Notes and Takehome

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Acts 3

The temple was the center of Jewish worship.

- Judaism was characterized by separation.



- The crippled man was always a second – class citizen.

Peter healed the man in Jesus’ name.

- He knew people would associate the man leaping with the Messiah in Isaiah 35.

The lame man was able to enter the temple for the first time in his life.

Peter’s command to look him in the eye was a sign of equality.

The most significant spiritual event in the man's life happened outside the religious establishment.

- Peter gave the man access to God.

#### **Application:**

- Be aware of how our religious tendencies create separation rather than reconciliation.
- Realize you have power in Jesus' name.
- Be willing to do spiritual work outside the church.
  - "Go and be the church."
- Live life in the name of Jesus.
  - We may need to repent of religious complacency.

#### **Questions for Reflection:**

Read Acts 3:

1. If you were the crippled man, how do you think you would have felt sitting outside the temple gates all your life? How would you have felt toward God? How would you have felt toward the people going into the temple?
2. If you were a devout Jew entering the Temple to worship, how would you have felt when you saw the crippled man sitting at the gate?
3. Why do you think Peter and John stopped and engaged this man?
4. How do you think the man felt walking (jumping) into the temple for the first time?
5. What does this story say about how Jesus changed the religious paradigm?
6. In what ways do Christians today live in the old paradigm?

In Bible interpretation, we can look at the specific circumstance and draw universal principles from them. Bible events will often bring to light attitudes we should or shouldn't have. One of the ways to find them is to associate the different characters with modern equivalents. We can see ourselves and our attitudes in the characters.

For instance, Christians might see ourselves as either the Apostles or as the other temple-goers?

7. In what way are modern Christians like Peter and John? In what ways are we unlike Peter and John?
8. In what ways *should* we be like Peter and John?