

“The Crippled in Our Path”

In our first readings yesterday and today, we read from the Acts of the Apostles how Peter and John have begun their ministry proclaiming the Good News of Christ. And we see from the beginning how the ministry is one of healing and call to repentance.

In the name of Jesus Christ they had healed a man crippled from birth, which understandably garnered a great deal of attention as now *“all the people hurried in amazement toward them.”* Then, as Peter began



to address the gathering crowd, we see the great Mercy and Love of our God flowing from his message: Though you *“handed over and... denied the Holy and Righteous One... asked that a murderer be released to you... The author of life you put to death;”* despite all this, God does not seek to crush you, but to heal you, to reconcile with you.

It is every bit as beautiful a message today as it was back then. A great good that stands to come from the slow churn of this pandemic is a turn toward God... We have

so stubbornly clung to and put our faith in the things of this world, ignoring God or otherwise taking His Mercy for granted, that we were in need of a spiritual wake-up call. Perhaps we too *“acted out of ignorance, just as [our] leaders did;”* regardless, as St. Paul would later implore, *“now is the acceptable time”* to come home.

Note that Peter and John didn’t have a big speech prepared; this was not a scheduled event. They were simply going to the temple to pray when all this “just happened.” God place the crippled man in their path and they went with it and people responded. We are called to do the same. We who have experienced the healing power of God, His amazing grace in the Sacraments; we are called to share this with a world that is finally starting to look up, finally starting to think deeper, finally starting to wonder if there’s something better than what the world offers... Be there for them. You may not be called to heal a crippled man and have large crowds gather (or you might!), but have your spiritual eyes and ears open to the spiritually crippled that God places in your path. For you too are called to bring them healing in the name of Jesus Christ..!

Peace,

Dcn Ron

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<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/041620.cfm>

