



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are still powerful and still at work today. Help us see people the way You see them. Stir our faith. Teach us to step out in courage and trust You with the results. May everything we do bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WELCOME AND CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

If you could instantly fix one broken thing in the world, what would it be—and why does that matter to you?



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WORD

Acts 3:1–10 (ESV)

- 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
- 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.
- 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.
- 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”
- 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.
- 6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”
- 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
- 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
- 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,
- 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

Peter and John are simply going to pray. This is not a special event—it is routine faithfulness. The ninth hour (3pm) was one of the daily Jewish prayer times. Luke intentionally situates the miracle in the rhythm of ordinary devotion.

At the gate called Beautiful, they meet a man who has been lame from birth. For over forty years (Acts 4:22), his life has followed a pattern: carried, placed, begging. He lives at a threshold—close to worship, but not inside it.

The tension is powerful:

- A beautiful gate.
- A broken life.
- Religious activity all around.
- Personal exclusion at the entrance.

God often chooses liminal spaces—threshold moments—to reveal His power. The miracle happens between outside and inside. Between survival and worship. Between expectation and encounter.

Peter does three significant things:

1. He sees the man.
2. He speaks the name of Jesus.
3. He reaches out his hand.

Immediately, strength enters what had never functioned. And the miracle is not complete until verse 8: “entered the temple with them.” He crosses the threshold. He moves from beggar to worshipper.

The healing creates wonder. The wonder creates a crowd. The crowd becomes the platform for proclamation. Miracles and mission are inseparable.

The Beautiful & the Broken

The Broken Reality	The Beautiful Work of God
Lame from birth	Strength enters instantly
Laid daily at the gate	Enters the Temple
Begging for coins	Receives the name of Jesus
Ignored by many	Seen and engaged
Survival mindset	Walking, leaping, praising

Key Truths for LIFE GROUPS

1. God Works in Liminal Spaces

The gate was neither fully outside nor fully inside.

In our lives, liminal spaces may look like:

- Transition seasons
- Workplace tensions
- Family fractures
- Cultural intersections
- Spiritual searching

Thresholds become theatres for glory.

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY (cont...)

2. Seeing Is the Beginning of the Miracle

“Look at us.”

Before healing came attention.

Before power came presence.

We cannot carry burdens we refuse to notice. Apathy keeps people at the gate.

Compassion moves them through it.

3. We Often Expect Less Than God Intends

The man expected coins.

God intended wholeness.

We often pray for relief when God desires restoration.

4. The Name of Jesus Is More Beautiful Than the Gate

The architecture was impressive.

But Christ's authority was transformative.

The gate could frame beauty.

Only Jesus could create it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (pick one from each section)

1. Why is it significant that Luke mentions the “Beautiful Gate”? What tension does that create in the story?
2. Where do you see “liminal spaces” in your life right now?
3. Why is it easier to give someone something material than to give them attention?
4. Have you ever settled for “alms” when God wanted to bring deeper restoration?
5. Who in your world might be sitting at a gate—close to faith but not yet inside?
6. What would it look like for our LIFE GROUP to move toward brokenness instead of past it?

Missional Steps for the Week

- Pray daily: “Lord, open my eyes to the gates around me.”
- Identify one threshold space (workplace, campus, family tension) and intentionally bring presence there.
- Offer what you do have—the name of Jesus, prayer, encouragement, invitation.
- Trust God with the outcome. Our role is obedience; His role is power.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that You are not intimidated by brokenness. Teach us to see beauty where You are about to move. Give us the courage to stop at the gates others walk past. Use our ordinary faithfulness to release extraordinary power. May the name of Jesus be lifted high in every threshold space we step into this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.