

Spring Semester 2018 – Something to give – Read Acts 3:1-10

*Ac 3:8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.*

Dear Friends & Family of True North,

The young man walks into the cafeteria and says, “I’d like a sausage, mushroom, and olive pizza.” The cafeteria worker says, “It’s 7:30 in the morning and we have cereal and fruit.” That student’s expectation wasn’t met. In our reading this week, we have the start of something that is going to bring both blessings and challenges to the early church. The blessings include more people hearing the message of Jesus Christ as Savior. The challenges include Israel’s leaders not liking the message of the disciples and some persecution. Before we get there, we start with the beginning. There is a man, crippled from birth, who was brought there to beg. His expectation and hope was money. He received something far greater than that. He received the ability to walk.

How does he react? He reacts with praise. He thanks the one who gave him the ability to walk. As we read this, we are reminded what a blessing it is to be able to walk. We see a man grateful for the gift God gave him that had been lacking during his entire lifetime. While his expectation was one thing, he was given something else. That gift in turn would be conversation starter with others that led to their hearing of the gospel.

In our life, we often have expectations of God. I must have this. I must have that. Very often God gives us something completely different than what we feel we must have. He did so with this man. He does that with us too. We don’t always see the daily blessings let alone thank God for what we do have. But the Lord is there blessing us with more than what we know what to do with. As we study the early church and this man, may we take his actions to heart. He uses what he was given to praise God. What is that you’ve been given? We have feet to go, mouths to speak, and hands to do. May we always use them to praise God. The Lord’s blessings this week!

Pastor Lindner

