

The Resurrection's Teachable Moments

- All, all; for Xp risen, indeed! And may that Easter joy cont resonate in hrts & abide there by faith. Today in Gos we find discs gathered tog on ES, then again on Sun after Easter. Both times J appears to them, risen fr dead. But 1st time, Tom not w/them; so doubted (thus name, DT) that J alive. But 2nd time, Tom was there, and he saw J. And what unfolds is smthng I'd call TM. J: "Come; look hands, side; put hand here. Stop doubting, bel." That was a TM that Tom'd nvr forget. J driving home point (for Tom & us): J actly did rise fr dead, & we need stop doubting our Sav, but bel his proms.
- Res/J provides many TMs, another of which occurs Ac 3. Ac 3 takes place few months after res. J has ascndd; Pent's taken place; discs are spreadng Gos thruout Judea; and res is finding many TMs.
- Like this one: **vs. 1-2**. He: that guy; evone knew him. In ch 4 hear over 40 yrs old; but for entire life, since born, had twstd ankles / cripld feet. Side note: my son born w/club foot: ankles severely twstd, feet turned in. Remem when we came: casts both legs, bec had surgery ~6 wks old. They didn't have surgries like that for this cripld man; maybe he born w/club foot. Don't know; but can feel for guy. Can't work, so beggar; **vs. 3-5**. Now here comes TM; **vs. 6a**. What this man really need? \$? Yeah. Help getting around? Yeah. Walk? Yeah. But what he really need? What we really need? Depnds on perspctv I guess. We need: \$, trnsprttn, food, home, clothing, health – all this: our daily bread (LP). But what we truly need? Remem when J at home M&M – Martha cooking/preprtns, Mary listening J's Word. So J: "**Martha, Martha, you are worried & upset re many things, but only 1 thing is needed**" (Lk 10:41-42). What we really need: J, his Word! Nothing else is more imp in life. Sure, we need daily bread; but we need J more! We cannot let things like \$, home, jobs, possessions, even health supersede our need for J. Pt said to beggar: **vs. 6ab walk** – and that right there is all we need! He's our Sav, risen fr dead; there's nothing more imp than that! So dear Xians, just make sure you're priortzng J above evthing else in your life. J is what you really need! This is our 1st TM.
- Then Pt said "**walk,**" and he did! **Vs. 7-8**. This was a mircl, a gracious gift from Lord. And we've all received gracious gifts from Lord. But problm: smtms we forget source. That hapd here: **vs. 11b-12**. I think this such incrdble mircl (lifelng cripple jumpng!), ppl began think: this was Pt/Jn's doing; was their power that healed; they deserved credit. Same thing haps to Ap Paul in Ac 14: Paul heals cripld man, and ppl call him a god for it. So again: TM. What's source of our blessings? Is it ourselves? Our eductn, strngth, work ethc, smrts, good looks/luck? Where our blssngs come from? Smtms we forget. We start take credit for selves and stop giving credit God. Ppl in Jrslm that day: failing see God as source this mircl. So this: TM. Pt: not us; give credit to God! What's lesson for you? Think some hymn stanzas: "*Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow*" (CW 334). "*Hail O Source of EVERY blessing*" (CW 87). Make sure you give credit where credit's due. If there's anything good you have in your life, you need realize that comes from the Lord, as gracious gift. Thank him for it!
- So this miraculous healing has evone's attn. And Pt takes this opptnty/TM to preach sermon re res/J, so that ppl'd bel in J. That's actually always the purpose for a mircl. When J performs a mircls, it's nvr to show off his pwr; it's always to reinforce preaching/Gos so ppl bel in J. And so here: this crippled man is healed in name/J so that ppl'd bel in res/J. It's a TM.
- So Pt: **vs. 13-15a**. YOU did this! Doesn't get more direct than that: you killed Xp! But who was Pt preachng to? Did all these ppl shout "Crucify" on GF? Maybe some; but I doubt all. But here's thing: doesn't really matter (which: exactly the point)! Whether you're 1st cent Jew in Jrslm, or 21st cent member SJ: if you're a sinner, if you've transgrssd God's law in any way (heads up: that's all us!), then Pt's words apply to you: **vs. 13bed, 14ab, 15ab**. YOU did this! Your sins nailed J to cross. We always like pass blame onto others: not my fault; she started it; he's to blame, not me. But when you look at J suffrng/ dying on cross, there's no passing buck. We have to own our guilt. And repent. Pt: **vs. 19a**. Repntnc means turning away from sin & turning to J for pardon; not passing our blame onto others; but confssng our guilt & belvng his grace – bec when we repent and turn to J, we find full/free forgiveness.

- And that's very next TM. Pt doesn't just end his sermon with: you're a sinner; you killed Mes! Also: vs. 13a, in res; then vs. 15b, what I call greatest mircl wrld's ever seen; finally vs. 18a, so this: God's plan all along. God intervened, on our behalf! He raised J fr dead in order solve our prob/sin. Res/J means: God has acctpd scrfc for sin that J made on cross. So now, even though we did crucify J, all our sins are forgiven, all our guilt taken away. Pt: vs. 19ab; that's a complete wiping away of all our sins. And when says vs. 19c, that's the refreshing peace we have as Xians, knowing that we have a God who loves us, who sacrificed his Son for us, to save us, who raised him fr dead, so could prepare a home for us in hvn. That's the comforting, soul-refreshing truth of res that we treasure as Xians!
- TMs just sorta pop up in life from time/time. They are those special occasions when smone presents a truth so imp that really sinks in and sticks w/us forever. The Res's TMs do just that. When J had Tom touch his side, that was TM! When Pt healed crippled man & preached sermon to gathered crowd, that was TM. Learn from these TMs! Learn from Tom, to stop doubting and bel your Sav. Learn from crippled man's healing that what you need most of all is J, and that every blessing you have comes from God. Learn from Pt's sermon that your sins are great, but your risen Sav is greater. Learn these lessons from the Res's TMs, and times/refreshing will come from Lord to you in abundance.

Acts 3:1-20

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 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. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

