

June 29, 2025



Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

RISE AND WALK

By David C. Robinson, SJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called "the Beautiful Gate" every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk." Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God.

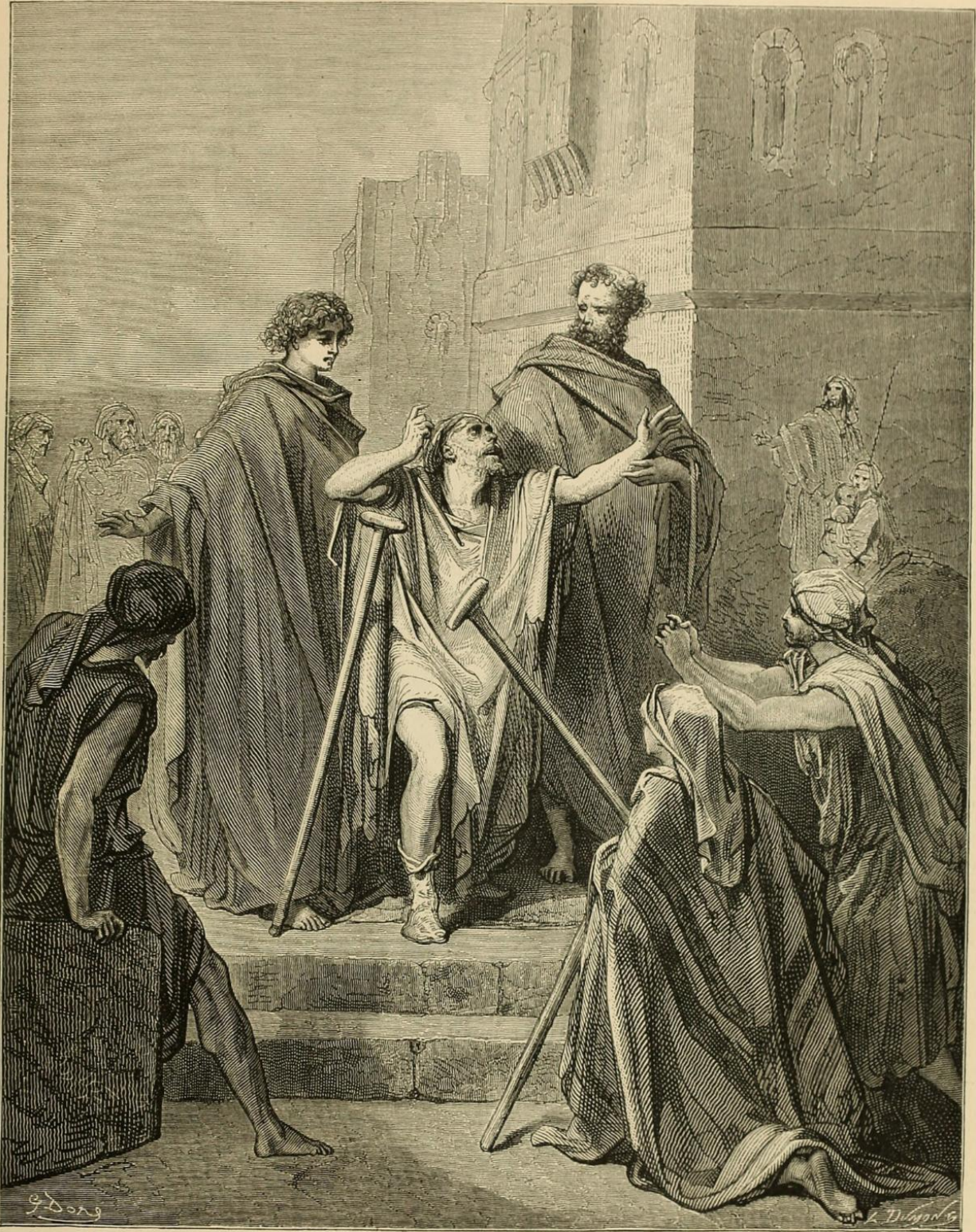
ACTS 3:1-8

Reflection

The three so-called *Religions of the Book*—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—all created scriptures to support their adherents in matters of faith, proper life, and the received truth of their experience of God. As is universally known, the Christian scriptures include a rich collection of Judaic tradition in the Old Testament. An additional aspect of the New Testament are the powerful elements in the Gospels and Epistles, with the detailed and personal quality of so many narratives that fill them. In my own walk, I have found the story of the *Beggar at the Beautiful Gate* to be one of the most moving of all. The Gate is one of the most beautiful entrances to the Temple. The ‘crippled’ man had been brought there for years, without results. Peter’s call to him reveals the depth of his faith in Jesus’ healing presence among his followers, and also acknowledges the humble nature of his own stature as a disciple: **“I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.”**

The miracle is a wonderful gift, but the heart of the interaction is the personal and powerful expression of love, true compassion, and humble trust in God’s care for the suffering. If we measure the value of the encounter by the physical result, we are looking for a magical moment, rather than rejoicing in the outpouring of faith-filled care. Our prayers to God begin with a desire for healing, but have their lasting power in the ways our lives are transformed in their concern for, and service to, those whose struggles inspired our attention in the first place. In the early communities, there is a significant amount of energy expended on right-belief to the detriment of right-faith-in-action (as Paul makes clear!). Peter’s full-hearted care for the paralytic is an embodiment of Jesus’ own compassion, moving deeply to spiritual communion. His prayer is a touching acknowledgment of that enduring compassion that opens him to an ever-wider circle of loving service in discipleship. In my own walk with God, I yearn for that same evolving transparency of heart to all the lost and suffering. May we all be brought to tears for those who will be blessed by our lives of prayer—lives that continually nurture our depth of fellow-feeling for all God’s suffering family.

Every human life has a place of paralysis within, a place in need of God’s healing touch. We each abide at the Beautiful Gate, awaiting the voice that says: **“I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.”**



St. Peter and St. John at the beautiful gate. Acts 3:6-7. Illustration by Gustave Doré.

For Pondering

- How has your life of prayer opened your heart to the wider needs of God's people?
- How have you deepened your sense of compassion for the poor who live beyond your religious circle?

- What growth do you seek in your spiritual life that will free you from distance of heart from the invisible ones in your community?

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)