

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

FILLED WITH AMAZEMENT AND ASTONISHMENT

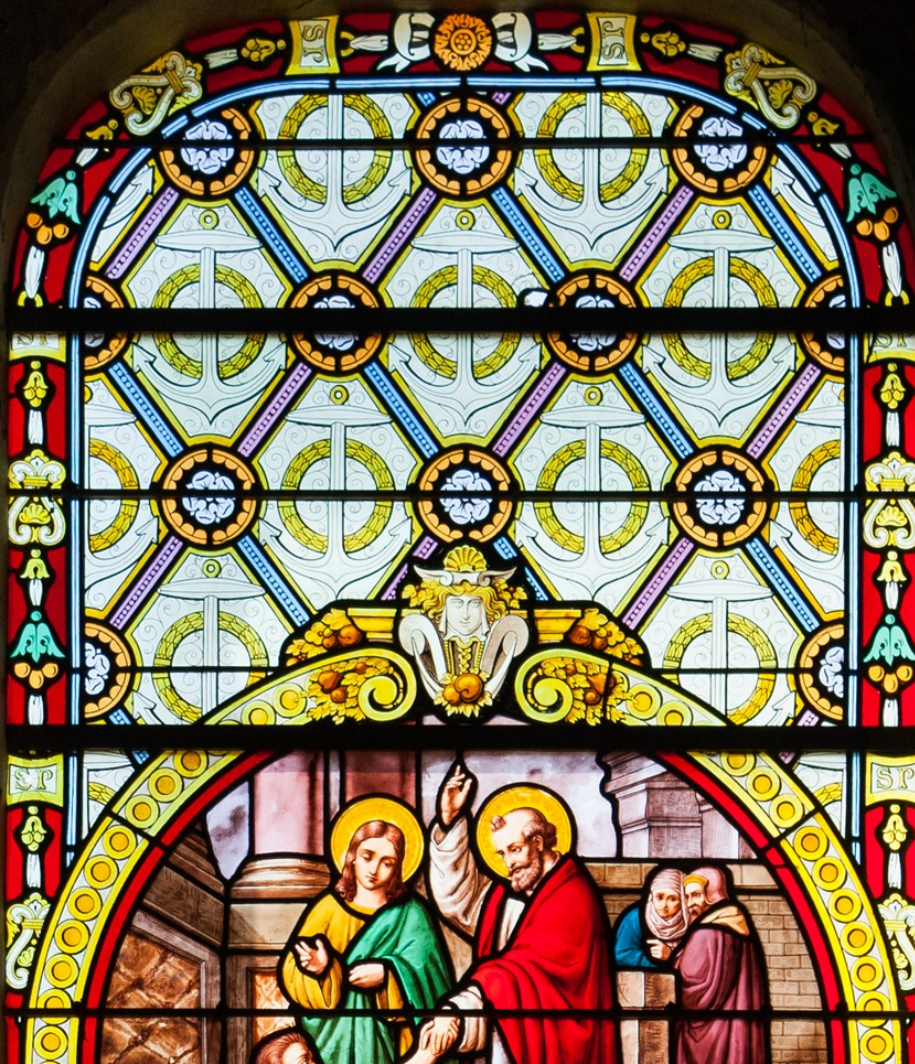
By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

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. When all the people saw the man walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Reflection

This episode in Acts of the Apostles is consistent with the statements that after the resurrection, Jesus' disciples continued to meet together for prayer in the Temple. We are also told of the healing of the man born crippled, whose story holds similar details found in other healings in Scripture. This person is significantly handicapped, having to be carried each day to his personal begging spot in the Temple. Peter doesn't give him the alms he expects; rather he takes him by the right hand, raises him up, and gives the healing wholeness he desires ... and for which he is grateful. *"In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk. ... He leaped up, stood and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God."* The people who were used to seeing him begging at the Temple *were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.*





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For Pondering

- What experience in this episode do you resonate with today?
 - When have you found yourself/your friend/your family “jumping and praising God?”
 - Imagine yourself meeting the healed cripple beggar. What do you talk about?
 - You find yourself filled with “amazement and astonishment” after witnessing what had happened to the crippled man. Where else in your life do you experience amazement and astonishment?
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For Prayer

*Dear God,
stir my heart
with the spirit of joy.
Imbue my arms and my legs
with that spirit.
Fill me, my God,
with the cleansing spirit of holy joy.
Enliven my limbs.
Help me raise my hands,
and clap.
Help me lift my feet
and dance, dance, dance.*

REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV [ADAPTED]

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