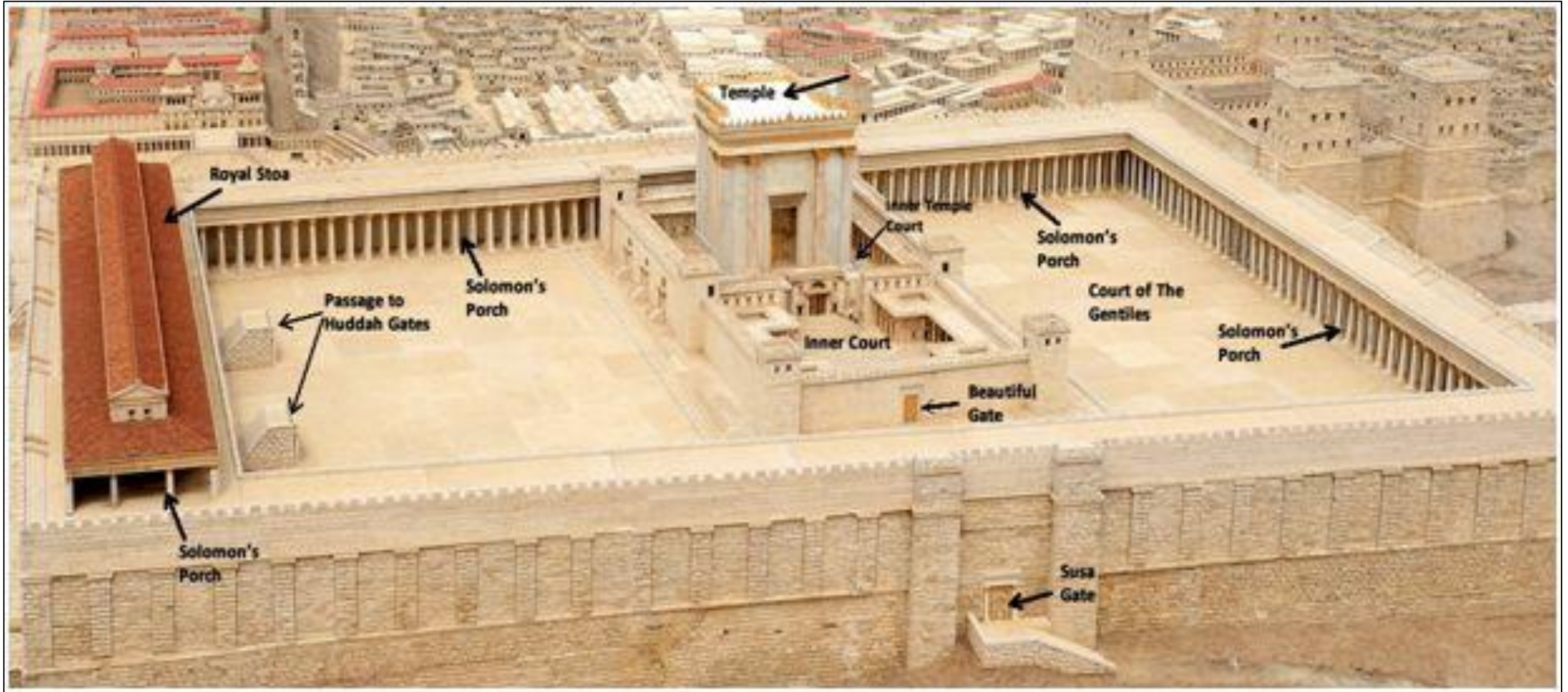


Totally Unexpected ?



Acts 3:1-13

The layout of the Temple complex



Why did they go there then?

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. (9th hour)



Why did they really go then?

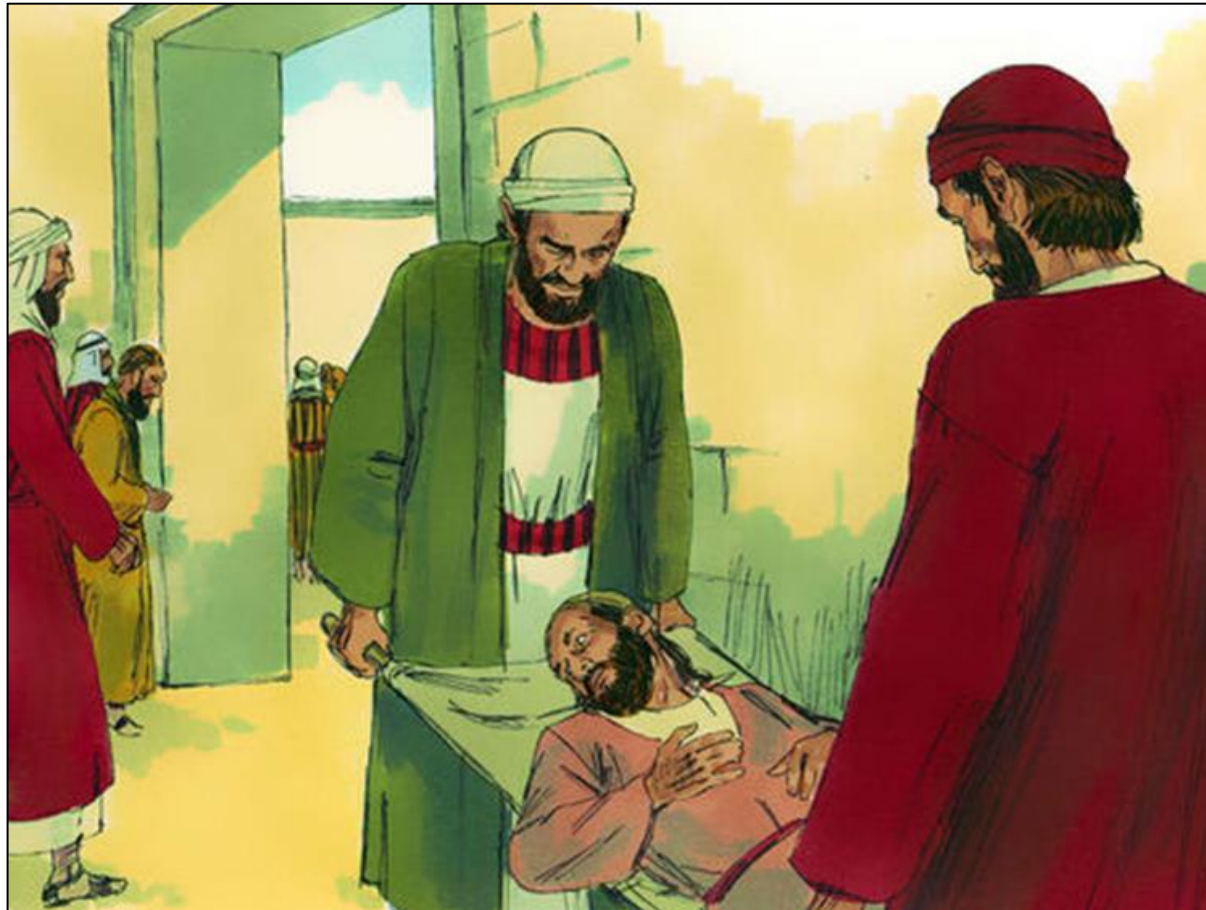
Let the Holy
Spirit Guide
Your Lives!

- Galatians 5:16 NLT -



What a contrast – a broken life at the beautiful gate

Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful,



Just another day to make a living

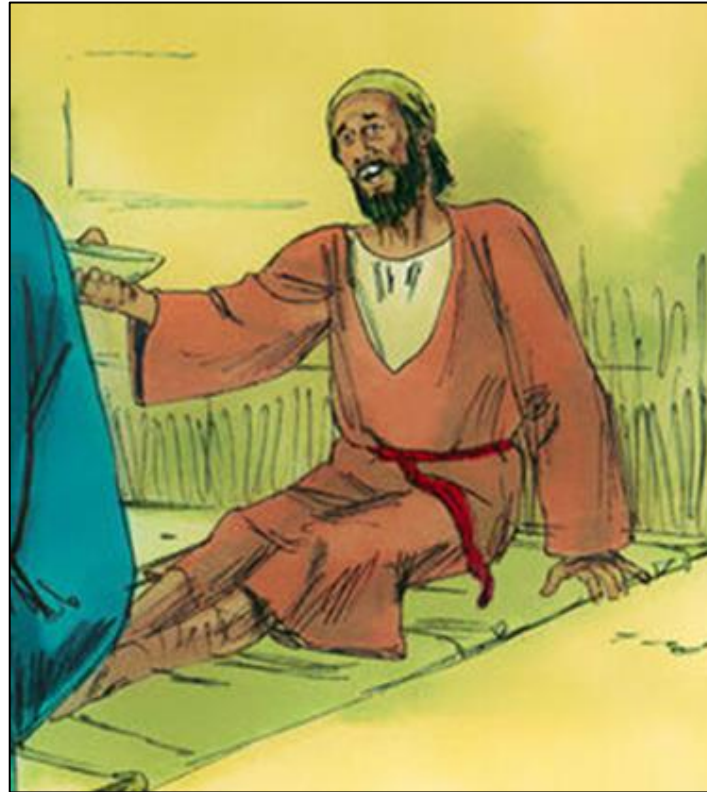
where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.



Go where the people are.

A bit of a mystery?

he was put *there* every day



Had Jesus seen him before?

Near enough to ask

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.



Just another couple of 'donors'

Peter looked straight at him, as did John.



What was going on? Was the Holy Spirit prompting them?

Focus

Then Peter said, "Look at us!"



'us' ... team work

Great Expectations?

So the man gave them his attention,
expecting to get something from them.



A good donation coming?

More than money

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have,



Disappointing?

Different riches

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you."



What do we have to give?

The Name

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

Jesus is the authority
Jesus has the power to make Peter's word creative.



Faith and co-operation

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”
Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up,



Peter helped him, expecting something would happen

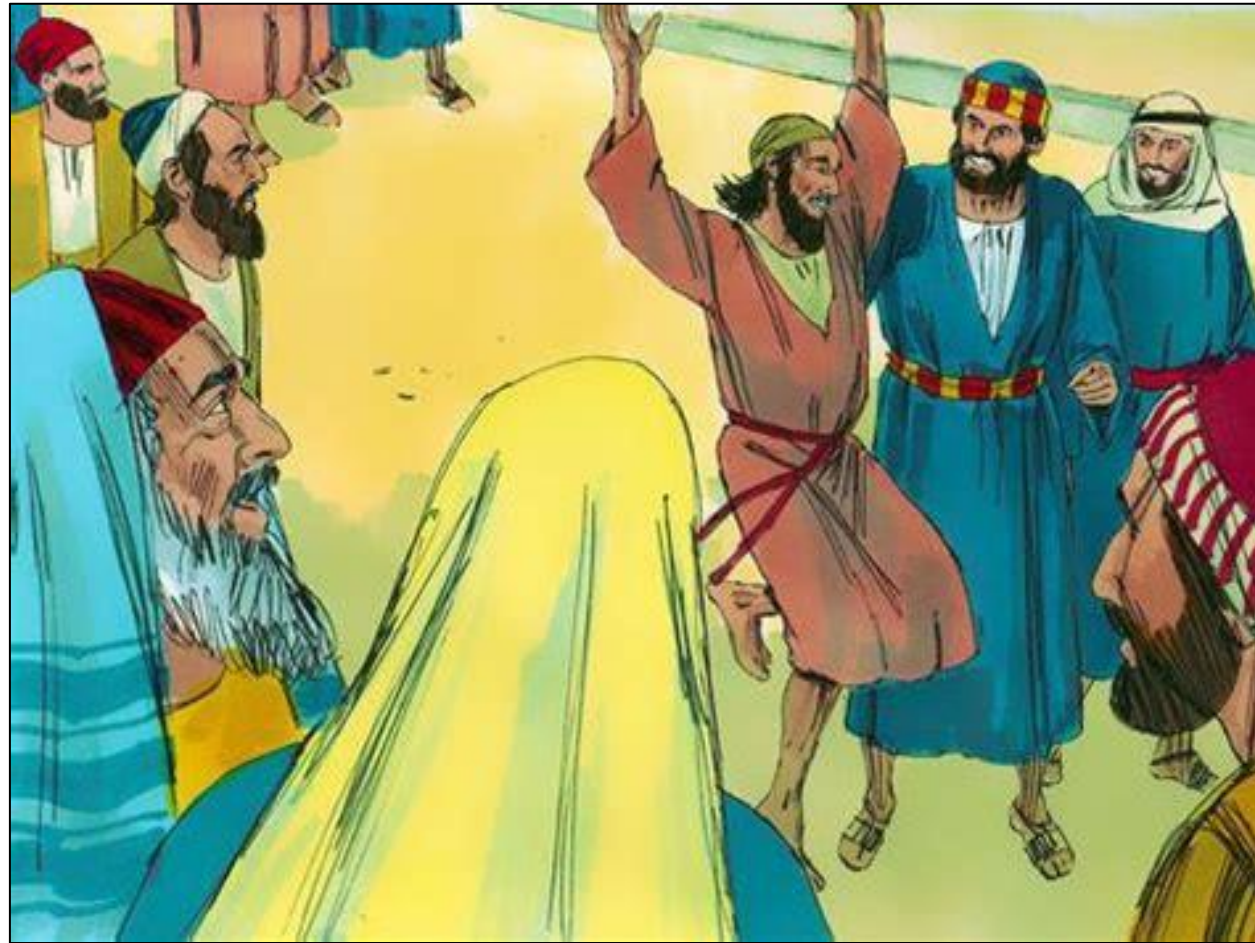
It's a miracle

and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.
He jumped to his feet and began to walk.



- an immediate multiple miracle -
What changed in his body in order to walk?

Then he went with them into the temple courts,
walking and jumping, and praising God.



Enjoying the blessing while God gets the glory

Spot the difference!

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful,



They recognised him as the same man – but different -
This was God's method of getting their interest

and they were filled with wonder and amazement
at what had happened to him.



They were glad to see the change

Amazed at what God had done - they
knew miracles had happened before.
Here is a new one – right here!

While the beggar held on to Peter and John,

It wasn't in order to stop him falling over!



He wants to be near, - bonded!

Word spreads quickly

all the people were astonished and came running to them
in the place called Solomon`s Colonnade.



When Peter saw this,

Peter's opportunity - did he make a quick prayer?



he said to them.. "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? "



What's the big surprise?

It wasn't us!

Why do you stare at us
as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?



He makes it clear –
it wasn't them who did this

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers,
has glorified his servant Jesus.



It's because Jesus has been 'backed up' by our true, living God

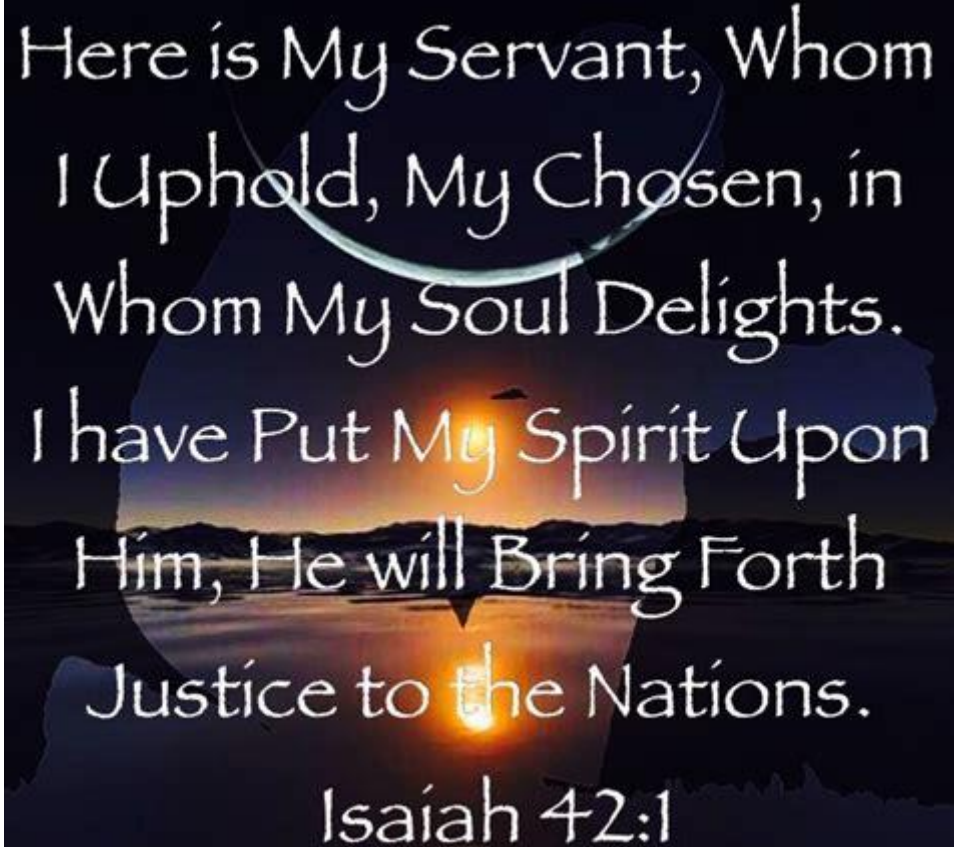
Peter also establishes the continuity of God's grace

The Servant

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers,
has glorified his servant Jesus.

Matthew 12:17 This was to fulfil what
was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

The 'Servant' is a title for the
Messiah
and shows his great role.



Here is My Servant, Whom
I Uphold, My Chosen, in
Whom My Soul Delights.
I have Put My Spirit Upon
Him, He will Bring Forth
Justice to the Nations.
Isaiah 42:1

Here comes Peter's second sermon.... Next time!

Totally Unexpected ?



They were:-

- 1, Open to the Spirit's leading
- 2, Available for opportunities to bless others
- 3, Trusting in the authority of Jesus' name.
- 4, An example for you and me.