

AT THE GATE BUT, NOT IN THE CHURCH



Act 3:1-11

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INTRODUCTION

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IT IS A TRAGEDY TO BE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH, BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

YOU ARE ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH. YOU ARE ON THE CHURCH PREMISES BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

YOU ARE ON THE CHURCH ROLL BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH. YOU ARE A REGULAR AT THE CHURCH, BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH. FOR YOU SEE, SOME FOLK ARE AT THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

1. THEY ARE JUST OCCUPYING SPACE IN THE CHURCH.
2. THEY ARE JUST SITTING THERE LIKE A LUMP ON A LOG IN THE CHURCH.
3. THEY ARE AT THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
4. THEY ARE COMING EVERY SUNDAY BUT NOT BRINGING ANYTHING WITH THEM.
5. THEY ARE COMING EMPTY HANDED AND LEAVING EMPTY.
6. THEY COME IN D.O.A. (DEAD ON ARRIVAL) AND LEAVE D.O.D. (DEAD ON DEPARTURE).

SOMEBODY CAME TO CHURCH THIS MORNING EXPECTING A MIRACLE AND LOOKING TO RECEIVE A BLESSING FROM THE LORD.

BUT HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE SOMETHING, WHEN YOU DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING, NOTHING FROM NOTHING LEAVES NOTHING.

LOOK OUT CHURCH, IF YOU DIDN'T BRING NOTHING, I HATE TO BUST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT YOU WON'T GET NOTHING. IF YOU DIDN'T COME IN HERE PRAYED UP AND BIBLE READ UP. AND READY FOR SOME PRAISE UP, YOU ARE AT THE GATE BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

I. BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU GOT TO BRING SOMETHING WITH YOU IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING.

A. NOW, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE AT THE GATE AND NOT IN THE CHURCH?

1. WELL, WHEN YOU GO HOME THIS EVENING AND MAKE AN ASSESSMENT AND AN INVENTORY OF YOURSELF, AND YOU DISCOVERED THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN YOU OR YOUR LIFE.
2. THE SAME OLD WAYS YOU CAME INTO THE CHURCH, IS THE SAME OLD WAY YOU LEFT OUT THE CHURCH. I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU WITHOUT HESITATION OR RESERVATION YOU WERE ONLY AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH, BUT YOU WERE NOT IN THE CHURCH!
3. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH DOING THE SAME OLD THINGS YOU'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
4. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH ACTING THE SAME OLD WAY YOU HAVE BEEN ACTING. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
5. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH SAYING THE SAME OLD THINGS YOU USED TO SAY. YOU WERE

AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

6. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH GOING TO THE SAME OLD PLACES IN THE SAME OLD DIRECTION YOU USE TO GO. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
7. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND YOU DIDN'T FEEL THE PRESENTS OF GOD. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
8. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND YOU DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING FROM THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD TO THE SOLE OF YOUR FEET. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
9. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND NOTHING WAS SAID OR DONE IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE TO BRIGHTEN YOUR SPIRIT. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
10. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND THE SERMON DIDN'T MOVE YOU, THE SONGS OF ZION AND THE PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE TESTIMONIES OF THE SAINTS DIDN'T TOUCH YOU OR GET NEXT TO YOU. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
11. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND NOTHING STIRRED YOU UP ON THE INSIDE, AND YOU CAN KEEP THOSE SAME OLD PRIM AND PROPER WAYS AND LOOKS! YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.
12. WHEN YOU LEAVE THE CHURCH AND NEVER FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVING WITHIN YOU. YOU WERE AT THE GATE OF THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

**I. YOU GOT TO BRING SOMETHING WITH YOU
IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING.**

**II. THERE NEEDS TO BE A CHANGE IN OUR
CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

A. PEOPLE NEED TO CHANGE THEIR OLD WAYS.

1. CHRISTIAN FOLK NEED TO CHANGE THEIR BAD HABITS,
2. THEIR ATTITUDE AND THEIR ALTITUDE IN WORSHIP,
3. THIS NATION NEEDS A CHANGE FOR A BETTER OUTLOOK ON LIFE,
4. THIS NATION IS RIPE FOR A CHANGE IN THEIR POINT OF VIEW,
5. AS A RACE OF PEOPLE, WE HAVE COME TOO FAR TO TURN AROUND NOW.
6. AS A RACE OF PEOPLE WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND OURSELVES AT THE GATE BUT NEVER IN. THE LAST ONE HIRED AND THE FIRST ONE FIRED.

**B. DURING THE TIME OF JIM CROW AND SEGREGATION
WE WERE ALWAYS AT THE GATE OF CITY COUNCIL
BUT NEVER ALLOWED IN.**

1. WE WERE ALWAYS AT THE GATE OF THE BANK BUT NEVER IN.

2. WE WERE ALWAYS AT THE GATE OF THE CAFETERIA BUT NEVER ALLOWED TO COME IN THE FRONT DOOR.
3. WE WERE ALWAYS AT THE GATE OF THE MOTEL WASHING WINDOWS, MOPPING FLOORS AND CLEANING TOILETS, SHEETS AND PILLOWCASES, BUT NEVER ALLOWED TO GET A ROOM.
4. OUR CHILDREN WERE ALWAYS AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE, BUT NEVER ALLOWED TO GET EQUAL EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.
5. YES, WE WERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF YALE, HARVARD AND PRINCETON BUT NEVER ALLOWED IN.

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN OUR TEXT, PETER AND JOHN ARE WALKING TOGETHER TO THE TEMPLE, TALKING TOGETHER, AND PRAYING TOGETHER.

LOOK AT THEM, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER; LOOK AT THEM, SIDE BY SIDE.

IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE THESE TWO DISCIPLES TOGETHER, FOR THEY WERE CLOSE ASSOCIATES BEFORE JESUS INVITED THEM TO MINISTER WITH HIM.

THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TEMPLE BECAUSE IT WAS NOW THE HOUR FOR PRAYER.

PETER AND JOHN, AFTER THE HOLY GHOST HAD COME ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, CAN NOW BE SEEN MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE TEMPLE, TOGETHER.

AND ON THEIR WAY INTO THE TEMPLE, THEY PASSED THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE, WHICH WAS CALLED BEAUTIFUL.

AND THERE AT THE GATE WAS A HUMAN BEING THAT WAS LESS FORTUNATE THAN YOU AND I. WHO WAS SITTING AT THE BEAUTIFUL GATE.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WHILE PETER AND JOHN WERE GOING IN, A CERTAIN LAME MAN WAS SITTING THERE AT THE GATE.

HE WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT TRYING TO FIT IN SO HE COULD GET IN. THIS MAN'S FULL TIME OCCUPATION WAS BEGGING AND WHAT A WISE BEGGAR HE WAS.

YES...HE WAS AT THE GATE BEGGING, AND YOU KNOW WHAT CHURCH, I BELIEVE IF YOU COULD TALK TO HIM TODAY HE WOULD TELL YOU LIKE THE R&B GROUP THE TEMPTATION, "AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG."

C. FOR YOU SEE, HE KNEW WHEN, WHO AND WHERE TO BEG.

1. THIS WAS HIS ONLY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD.
2. THIS WAS HIS OCCUPATION.
3. THIS WAS HIS WAY OF MAKING A LIVING.
4. THIS WAS THE WAY HE PAID HIS BILLS AND PUT A LITTLE FOOD ON THE TABLE.
5. THIS WAS THE WAY HE HAD BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS.

AND, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, THAT HE HAD A CUP IN HIS HAND AND HE WAS SHAKING IT FOR MONEY, ASKING FOR ALMS OF THOSE WHO WENT INTO THE TEMPLE.

NOW, PETER AND JOHN CAME AT THE NINTH HOUR AND THEY FIND THIS LAME MAN SITTING THERE AT THE GATE SECURING HIS DAILY SUSTENANCE BY BEGGING.

OH, WHAT A TRAGIC THING IT WAS. LOOK AT HIM WITH HIS CUP IN HIS HAND ASKING FOR HANDOUTS, BECAUSE HE WAS LAME AND COULDN'T WALK.

THE LAME MAN HAD AN INFIRMITY; HE HAD NO HOPE OF LIVING AS AN UPRIGHT MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. HE WAS LAME FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB AND HE WAS FORCED TO BE A BEGGAR LIVING ON HANDOUTS, AND DONATIONS OF THOSE WHO ENTERED INTO THE TEMPLE.

OH!!! IT'S SO SAD. AND WHAT'S SO SAD ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT THE FACT THAT HE WAS CRIPPLE. IT'S NOT THE FACT THAT HE'S LAME, BUT WHAT'S SO SAD IS THE FACT OF NOT HOW HE IS, BUT WHERE HE IS.

LOOK AT HIM, HE'S AT THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE. HE WAS NOT IN THE (CHURCH) TEMPLE, BUT HE WAS AT THE GATE OF THE (CHURCH) TEMPLE.

WHAT A TRAGEDY THAT WAS. THE WORST PART OF HIS PROBLEM, WAS NOT HOW HE WAS, BUT WHERE HE WAS. HE WAS AT THE GATE BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

NOW HE WAS BROUGHT DAILY AND LAID AT THE SIDE OF THAT GATE.

HE BEGGED AT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GATE, WHERE THERE WAS CERTAIN TO BE HIGH TRAFFIC AND A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE IN TOWN.

SURELY THE FOLK WHO LAID HIM AT THE CHURCHES GATE COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY CARRIED HIM INTO THE CHURCH.
BUT HE WAS AT THE GATE BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH, HE'S AT THE GATE.

D. AND THAT SEEMS TO REPRESENT TO ME SO MANY MODERN DAY CHURCH FOLK, WHO ARE ALWAYS AT THE CHURCH BUT NEVER IN THE CHURCH.

1. AT CHOIR REHEARSAL, BUT NEVER IN THE REHEARSAL!
2. AT SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT NEVER IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!
3. AT MISSION MEETING, BUT NEVER REALLY IN THE MISSION MEETING!
4. AT THE USHER MEETING, BUT NEVER IN THE USHERS MEETING!
5. AT THE TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY AND THE THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING, BUT NEVER IN THE PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE MEETING!
6. AT THE MORNING WORSHIP! BUT NOT IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE!

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! NOW AIN'T NOBODY MAD THIS MORNING BUT THE DEVIL.

ALWAYS AT THE CHURCH, BUT NEVER IN THE CHURCH!
NEVER INTERESTED. NEVER CONCERNED. NEVER BEING A PART OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE INSIDE.

SINGING IN THE PEWS BUT NEVER IN THE WORSHIP.

E. DRESSED UP TO KILL. HAIR FRIED AND DYED. HIPS, LIPS AND FINGERTIPS! LOOKING GOOD AND SMELLING GOOD, BUT NEVER IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

1. NEVER SAY AMEN,
2. NEVER SAY GLORY HALLELUJAH,
3. NEVER SAY PRAISE THE LORD
4. NEVER SAY THANK YOU JESUS,
5. NEVER SAY GOD IS GOOD,

6. NEVER SAY HE'S WORTHY TO BE PRAISE,

7. NEVER, SAY ANYTHING?

SEEM LIKE NOW DAYS EVERYBODY IS AFRAID, SHAMED, TOO SOPHISTICATED AND EMBARRASSED TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE SON OF GOD (JESUS).

BUT THE OLD FOLKS DIDN'T MIND LETTING YOU KNOW WHERE THEY STOOD WITH THE LORD!

I DON'T WANT TO BE AT CHURCH, I WANTED TO BE IN THE CHURCH AND I WANTED THE CHURCH TO BE IN ME.

YES I'M TIRED PHYSICALLY, BUT I'M JUST GETTING READY SPIRITUALLY.

FOR YOU SEE, SOME FOLK PUT GOOD MONEY IN THE CHURCH BUT ARE NEVER CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORSHIP.

THEY ARE AT THE CHURCH BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH. AND, THIS WAS THE PROBLEM WITH THIS MAN. HE WAS AT THE GATE BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

F. OH WHAT A TRAGEDY.

1. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE, BUT YET SO FAR AWAY.
2. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE TO THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE, BUT WAS NEVER ABLE TO HEAR IT READ.
3. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE TO HEAR THE PREACHER PREACHING, BUT YET SO FAR AWAY.
4. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE TO HEAR THE WORD BEING TAUGHT, BUT YET SO FAR AWAY.

5. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE TO HEAR THE CHOIR SINGING, BUT YET SO FAR AWAY.
6. WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE TO HEAR THE DEACONS PRAYING, BUT YET SO FAR AWAY.
7. OH...WHAT A TRAGEDY IT WAS TO BE SO CLOSE BUT YET SO FAR AWAY, HE WAS AT THE GATE BUT NOT IN THE CHURCH.

NOW PETER AND JOHN WALKED UP TO HIM ON THEIR WAY IN TO THE CHURCH. AND THE BIBLE SAYS THE MAN ASKED PETER AND JOHN AND OTHER PASSERSBY, FOR MONEY.

IN ESSENCE THE MAN, SHAKES HIS CUP IN FRONT OF THEM AND ASKS THEM FOR A DONATION.

PETER AND JOHN LOOKED UPON HIM AND PETER FASTENED HIS EYES UPON HIM.

WELL NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS ME IN THIS WORLD.

SO MANY OF US TALK TO FOLK AND NEVER LOOK AT THEM.

WELL, WHEN I GO AND TAKE CARE OF MY BUSINESS MATTERS, I DON'T ALLOW A PERSON TO TALK TO ME AND STILL BE WRITING.

I'LL SAY, I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU GET THROUGH WITH WHAT YOU ARE DOING SO YOU CAN LOOK AT ME AND TALK TO ME, ABOUT MY MATTERS. BECAUSE WHERE YOU LOOK DETERMINES WHAT YOU VALUE.

- I. **YOU GOT TO BRING SOMETHING WITH YOU IN ORDER TO GET SOMETHING.**
- II. **THERE NEEDS TO BE A CHANGE IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE**

III. IF PEOPLE DON'T REALLY LOOK AT SOMETHING IT'S NOT WORTH MUCH TO THEM. YOU NEED TO LOOK!

- A. ANYTHING THAT YOU VALUE AS BEING IMPORTANT, YOU NEED TO LOOK AT IT. DO I HAVE A WITNESS!
1. IF YOU THINK PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS EASY AND CHEAP YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 2. IF YOU THINK STUDY IS UNNECESSARY, YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 3. IF YOU THINK PRAYER IS INEFFECTIVE YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 4. IF YOU THINK THE GOSPEL IS OUTDATED YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 5. IF YOU THINK THE CHURCH HAS OUTLIVED HER USEFULNESS YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 6. IF YOU THINK SECURITY CAN BE FOUND IN THINGS YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 7. IF YOU THINK HAPPINESS CAN BE FOUND IN A BOTTLE YOU NEED TO "LOOK."
 8. IF YOU THINK A CRACK PIPE IS ALL OF THAT YOU NEED "LOOK."
 9. IF YOU THINK "PEACE" CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE "PRINCE OF PEACE" YOU NEED TO "LOOK."

PETER FASTENED HIS EYES UPON THE MAN AT THE GATE, AND JOHN SAID UNTO HIM, "LOOK ON US."

THEY TOLD THE LAME MAN WHO EXPECTED TO RECEIVE SOME MONEY FROM THEM "LOOK ON US."

WELL, EVERYBODY CAN'T SAY THAT TO THE LAME.
EVERYBODY CAN'T SAY THAT TO THEIR CHILDREN, "LOOK
ON US."

B. AND IF THEY LOOK, WHAT WILL THEY SEE?

1. WILL THEY SEE A FATHER WHO SETS THE PROPER
EXAMPLE;
2. WILL THEY SEE A FATHER WHO IS DEVOTED TO
HIS FAMILY AND TO CHRIST WHO IS THE HEAD
OF THE CHURCH?
3. WILL THEY SEE A MOTHER WHO IS A CHRISTIAN
AND GIVES GODLY EXAMPLES?
4. EVERYBODY WHO IS A CHURCH MEMBER CAN'T
SAY TO THE LITTLE BOYS OR LITTLE GIRLS,
"LOOK ON US."
5. ARE YOU LIVING IN SUCH A WAY BEFORE
SOCIETY THAT WE CAN SAY TO FALLEN MEN,
WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS, IF YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHAT A CHILD OF GOD IS LIKE, "LOOK ON
US."

PETER AND JOHN SAID, "LOOK ON US."

WELL, THE LAME IN OUR SOCIETY IS EXPECTING SOMETHING
FROM THE CHRISTIANS.

YES THE LAME OF HUMANITY IS EXPECTING SOMETHING
WORTHWHILE, SOMETHING IMPORTANT, SOMETHING
SIGNIFICANT, AND SOMETHING GODLY FROM THE CHURCH.

THE BIBLE SAID THAT HE REACHED OUT HIS CUP EXPECTING
TO RECEIVE SOMETHING.

BUT, PETER AND JOHN SAID TO HIM IN ESSENCE, "I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE EXPECTING, I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR."

DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DROPPING SILVER AND GOLD IN YOUR CUP, BUT YET YOUR CONDITION IS STILL THE SAME, BY WAYS AND ACTIONS, YOU'RE STILL IN THE SAME OLD SITUATION.

SO SILVER AND GOLD HASN'T DONE YOU MUCH GOOD. YES, YOU'RE STILL LAME. YOU'RE STILL UNABLE TO MOVE YOURSELF FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER.

YET, YOU KEEP ASKING FOR WHAT HAS NOT DONE YOU ANY GOOD.

WE KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN ASKING FOR BUT WE WANT TO TELL YOU SILVER AND GOLD HAVE WE NONE.

BUT WE WANT TO OFFER YOU SOMEBODY THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE.

YOU'VE BEEN ASKING FOR SILVER AND GOLD. YOU'VE BEEN ASKING FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER DO YOU ANY GOOD.

BUT WE WANT TO OFFER YOU SOMETHING THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY, THAT SILVER AND GOLD CANNOT ACQUIRE.

C. "SILVER AND GOLD HAVE WE NONE. BUT SUCH AS WE HAVE WE GIVE UNTO YOU."

1. YES, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, RISE UP AND WALK.
2. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM DELINQUENCY TO DELIVERANCE.
3. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM GARBAGE TO GRACE.
4. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM THE CRACK HOUSE TO CHRIST'S HOUSE.
5. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM

PIMPING TO PREACHING.

6. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM DISGRACE TO AMAZING GRACE.
7. IN THE NAME OF JESUS HE CAN BRING YOU FROM A SINNER TO A SAINT.
8. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM THE BOTTLE TO THE BIBLE.
9. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM THE GUTTER MOST TO THE UPPERMOST.
10. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM TRASH TO TRANQUILITY.
11. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM ZERO TO A HERO.
12. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM NOT ENOUGH TO MORE THAN ENOUGH.
13. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, HE CAN BRING YOU FROM A MESS TO MIRACLE, AND IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

AND HE REACHED DOWN AND TOOK HIM BY THE RIGHT HAND, AND LIFTED THE LAME MAN UP.
WELL... THAT'S THE JOB OF CHILDREN OF GOD, TO LIFT SOMEBODY UP.

AND STRAIGHTWAY, WHICH MEANS "IMMEDIATELY, STRAIGHT-WAY MEANS, AT ONCE." STRENGTH CAME IN HIS ANKLEBONES. THE BIBLE SAYS, "STRAIGHTWAY STRENGTH CAME IN HIS ANKLE BONES." AND HE STOOD UP ON HIS OWN TWO FEET.

D. AIN'T HE ALRIGHT? YES HE IS!

1. LOOK AT HIM WALKING AROUND. ALL OF HIS LIFE HE'S BEEN LAME, BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW WALKING AROUND.
2. LOOK AT HIM LEAPING AND JUMPING.
3. LOOK AT HIM SHOUTING AND REJOICING.
4. LOOK AT HIM, PRAISING THE LORD.
5. LOOK AT HIM, LIFTING HIMSELF UP.
6. LOOK AT HIM, ON HIS FEET RUNNING AND WALKING.
7. LOOK AT HIM, AS HE ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH.
8. LOOK AT HIM, HE WAS ALWAYS AT THE GATE BUT NOW...HE'S IN THE CHURCH.

AND I THANK THE LORD THAT I'M IN THE CHURCH AND NOT AT THE GATE. NOW, I CAN LOVE THOSE WHO HATE ME.

AND I THANK THE LORD THAT I'M IN THE CHURCH AND NOT AT THE GATE. NOW I CAN BLESS THEM WHO CURSE ME.

AND I THANK THE LORD THAT I'M IN THE CHURCH AND NOT AT THE GATE. NOW I CAN PRAY FOR THEM WHO DESPITEFULLY USE ME.

I CAN PRAY IN THE MORNING, PRAY IN THE EVENING, AND PRAY IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.

OH LORD! IS THERE ANYBODY HERE THAT KNOWS FOR YOURSELF THAT YOU ARE IN THE CHURCH AND NOT AT THE GATE?

1. I'M NOT AT A FASHION SHOW DISPLAYING THE GARMENTS OF SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
2. I'M NOT AT A CONVALESCENT HOME, WHERE PEOPLE JUST SIT AROUND AND WAIT TO DIE, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
3. I'M NOT AT A THEATRE WHERE THE AUDIENCE SIMPLY WATCH A CAST PERFORM BEFORE THEM, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
4. I'M NOT IN A MOTEL, FOR PEOPLE JUST PASSING THROUGH ON THERE WAY TO SOMEWHERE ELSE ON SUNDAY, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH..
5. I'M NOT AT A HUNTING CLUB WHERE MEMBERS COME GUNNING FOR EACH OTHER, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH
6. I'M NOT AT A DISCOUNT HOUSE , OFFERING PEOPLE A CHEAP FORM OF RELIGION, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
7. I'M NOT AT A MORTUARY, WHERE CORPSE'S COME IN DEAD AND GO OUT DEAD, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
8. I'M NOT IN A NIGHT CLUB THAT ONLY OFFERS ENTERTAINMENT, BUT I'M IN THE CHURCH.
9. I'M NOT AT A VACATION SPOT WHERE PEOPLE ONLY COME ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, BUT I'M IN CHURCH.
10. I'M NOT AT A CIRCUS WHERE EACH MEMBER PUTS ON THEIR OWN LITTLE ACT, I'M IN THE CHURCH.
11. I'M NOT AT A SOCIAL CLUB, WHERE PEOPLE GATHER TO GOSSIP AND GRUMBLE, BUT, I'M IN CHURCH.

12. I'M NOT IN A STORM CELLAR, WHERE PEOPLE ONLY ENTER DURING A TIME OF CRISIS, BUT I'M IN CHURCH.

13. I'M NOT IN AN ICE HOUSE WHERE PEOPLE WITH COLD HEARTS COME TO GIVE COLD SHOULDERS, BUT, I'M IN CHURCH.

CHURCH IS A LIGHTHOUSE SHINING FORTH ITS LIGHT UPON A DARK AND STORMY WORLD.

CHURCH IS A RESTAURANT, FEEDING HUNGRY SOULS

CHURCH IS A HOSPITAL FOR SIN SICK SOULS

CHURCH IS A LIFE BOAT RESCUING VICTIMS FROM THE RAGING SEA OF LIFE.

CHURCH IS A BAKERY, DISPENSING THE BREAD OF LIFE TO STARVING SOULS.

CHURCH IS A LUMBERYARD WHERE YOU CAN BUY SUPPLIES TO BUILD A NEW LIFE.

CHURCH IS A TRAVELING AGENCY, GIVING DIRECTION TO A CITY NOT MADE WITH HANDS.

CHURCH IS A NEWS STATION TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS.

1. THAT EARLY ON FRIDAY, JESUS DIED FOR THE CHURCH.
2. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.