

# Signposts of the Kingdom



**Acts 3:1–26**

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There is one baptism I remember very vividly. One of the reasons I remember it so vividly is because the water we were in probably had piranhas swimming around us. Anytime you are in piranha infested waters, you remember those moments. We were in the Amazon River and I was assisting my dad with a baptism. It really wasn't the place I remember so well; it was really the person. It was a little unusual because we were baptizing a man who was completely lame. He had no use of his legs or his hands. He couldn't even lift his head up. He was completely paralyzed. He couldn't verbally talk to us. He had a guy holding him. This man also acted as a translator. He could read the lame man's non-verbal expressions and could interpret whether he was meaning yes or no. We had led him to Christ a few days earlier at his house. The man was lying on his bed, unable to move. We were witnessing to him and through verbal cues, he

affirmed his belief in the Lord Jesus and repented of his sins. Then, we were baptizing him. I was to the left of the man, dad was to the right, and the handler between us. Dad was getting ready to do the baptism where the handler would take him under. I was present because dad was concerned that something might go wrong. We were in the Amazon River where there could be piranhas and we were preparing to baptize this lame man.

If you have been baptized at Hardin, you probably still have your handkerchief. We use a handkerchief to place over the nose of the one being baptized. This is a David Lampkins thing. He wanted everyone to have a handkerchief from their baptism. This would always be a remembrance of their baptism. So Dad had brought a handkerchief for this baptism in the Amazon River. Dad baptized the lame man. Somehow, I ended up holding the handkerchief. I knew what I was supposed to do. I was to give the handkerchief to the man and tell him this would remind him of your baptism. There was a problem. The guy couldn't use his arms. The guy couldn't open his hands to take the handkerchief. I was standing in the Amazon River thinking about piranhas and this guy, holding the handkerchief in my hand. To be truthful, the reason I remember this baptism so well is not because there could be piranhas nor because the man was paralyzed but because of the handkerchief. The handkerchief actually became a miracle. I will tell you about that soon.

In Acts chapter 3, we will see another lame man who also has someone carrying him everywhere he needed to go. He is completely dependent on the generosity of others. We will see Peter perform a miracle with this guy. He will go from lame to leaping. We will show that this miracle points to something bigger. It is a signpost that points out that the kingdom has come and the kingdom is coming. We will walk through the verses of our text and tell the story.

Let's set up the story. Pentecost has happened. The Holy Spirit has come upon men and women who are being baptized and coming into the church. At the end of chapter 2, we read that the apostles were doing many signs and wonders, showing all the people that this is a God thing. God is doing something big. Luke includes a miracle to show us what all these miracles

are pointing to. They are pointing to the kingdom. The kingdom is here and the kingdom is coming.

Acts 3:1-3:

**Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.**

Imagine yourself as this guy. We are told there is a lame man at the temple steps. He didn't walk there. He was carried there. He had to have a friend carry him to the temple steps because he couldn't walk. That means he can't work. He can't have a job that provides income. Instead, he has to become a beggar. He has a friend that carries him to the temple steps, a good place to ask for money. Hopefully the people coming to pray to God would be generous. Walmart might not be the place to beg but possibly the church. Maybe those going to the church will give me a handout. They will give me money because they feel bad. Possibly, they feel bad about their sins and think by giving the lame man money God will be happy with them.

Think about your life if you were like this guy. This was the first century when there were not a lot of social programs. There were not a lot of safety nets. The only thing this man could do was beg. He was trying to get through that day, to get enough money to get some bread. He was trying to stay alive to make it until tomorrow. He was doing what he had probably done most days of his life. This was, no doubt, his normal thing. There is no telling how many hours he has lain at the steps of the temple asking people for money. He is completely dependent on the generosity of others. He sees two men walking, Peter and John, and asks them for money. He is begging them for money, asking for alms, a little of their money so that he could buy bread. We will see this situation turn into a miracle.

Acts 3:4:

**And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."**

I would guess that this startled the lame man. I would guess that most people who walked by him did stop and say, hey, look up at me. I would say that most people walking into the temple would avoid eye contact with him. How do I know that? Because I do that sometimes. How many of you when you are in Nashville on an exit ramp, see that person with a sign? He is up maybe 10-15 cars ahead, and he has a sign saying: Homeless, need money. How many of you roll down your window and yell for him to come to you, that you have money for him. No, you probably don't do that. Because it is a beautiful day, you had your window down. Instead of yelling to the man through the open window, you hit the switch and roll your window up. The radio is on so your turn up the volume. You haven't talked to your wife the entire trip but you turn to her and being a conversation. You do everything but look at the person asking for money. The cars in front of you begin to move, and as you approach the intersection, the red light catches you right beside the beggar. OK. You roll down the window and hand the guy money. You do it but you don't invite it.

In our text, Peter and John see this guy begging for money as they are going into the temple to pray. They stop and fix their gaze on him. This is a strange way to say they are zoning in on him. They tell him to look up. I am going to guess that this surprised the man. I don't know what he might have been thinking. Perhaps he is thinking these men have done some bad things and will give me a lot of money to try and pay off for what they have done. He looks up at Peter and John.

Acts 3:5:

**He fixes his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.**

He looks up thinking, pay day. I am going to get something. No one has ever called to me or told me to look up. He is lying on the steps looking up at Peter and John. He probably has a cup to receive the alms. He needs

money. He has a smile on his face thinking someone, finally, will be generous with me. He will be getting what he needs.

These words come from Peter's mouth and I can imagine they are the last thing the man wants to hear. Acts 3:6:

**But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."**

When Peter told the man he had no silver or gold, we can imagine his reaction. He was begging for money and these men who told him to look up tell him they are broke. Move on. Maybe those behind you have money. Peter doesn't have what this guy wants. We will see, however, that Peter has what this guy needs. We can assume when Peter told him that he had no silver or gold the man was disappointed.

Peter continued after telling him he did not have silver or gold, what you are looking for, but what I do have I will give to you. Again, put yourself in this man's shoes. He is lame, maybe paralyzed. He could not walk but had to be carried to the temple. He is asking for money. Peter told him he had no gold or silver but what I do have I will give to you. He told the man, in the name of Jesus, rise up and walk. Peter commanded a lame man to start walking. I can't imagine what was going through the man's head. I would probably respond that I would already have done that if I could. The man might say that the reason I am here is because I can't walk. In the next verse we will see that Peter not only said in the name of Jesus to get up and walk, he, also, extended a hand to the man.

Acts 3:7:

**And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.**

Peter told the man he did not have gold or silver, which is what you want, but I will give you what you need. He told the man that in the name of Jesus get up and walk and he extended his hand to the lame man. Peter had faith. This would look really awkward at the temple steps if this didn't work. It would be really weird if Peter lifted the man only to have him collapse back down. Peter had faith that Jesus would do something

through him. He extended his hand and the guy demonstrated faith as well. OK, we are both in this. When the lame man was pulled up, he was healed. His lame feet began to move. They were strong and he was perfectly well. This man thought he needed gold and silver. Peter gave him what he really needed. That need is ultimately Jesus.

Let's pause for a moment to make sure we get this. I think the same would be true with us. As we go about our days and we meet people, whether they are lame or walking, whether having it made or totally financially broke, wherever they are, the thing people need most from us as believers is Jesus. What this guy needed more than gold and silver was Jesus. Peter knew that. As you encounter people all throughout this week, think that what a person most needs from me, as a follower of Jesus, is Jesus. That is what people need the most. Notice that Peter proclaimed Jesus, but at the same time, extended a hand. It was the power of God and the hand of Peter. It was Peter's hand and God's power. I promise that during the week if you look for ways to extend your hand to people, you're inviting the opportunity for God's power to work in those people's lives, for God to make lame men and women walk and blind to see. What does that mean? It means they can get the gospel. The lost can be found because you know what they need most is Jesus. This is what Peter knew.

While Peter performed a miracle, Luke wants to make certain we connect the dots. He wants the people who are looking on to recognize a signpost. It points to something greater. We see how Luke does this in the next verse.

Acts 3:8:

**And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.**

The lame man didn't just get up. He started leaping and went into the temple. Why is this significant? Luke didn't want his readers to miss it and Peter didn't want his audience to miss it. The word translated leaping is a specific word that ties back to Isaiah 35. It is the same word in the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament, that describes when the kingdom comes, when the Messianic age begins, the lame will leap like deer. Here,

Peter on the steps of the temple tells a lame man to get up. He doesn't just get up and start strolling. He gets up and starts leaping. What does that tell us? He is leaping to tell all of us that the Kingdom of God has come. The Savior, the Messiah, the King is here. Things are changing. The lame are now leaping. Notice what the lame man did when he started leaping. He went into the temple. Why is that significant? We don't really get that. What is the big deal about him going into the church? If you read the Old Testament books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, you will find that those who were lame, paralyzed, could not go into the temple. They could not go into the presence of God. They were required to stay outside. This lame man could not go into the temple, but now because of his healing, because of the strong name of Jesus, he was leaping and entered the temple and into the presence of the Lord. He was now invited into the kingdom. Things were changing. Jesus has made a difference in the life of this man. The lame are now leaping.

Peter does now want us to miss this and Luke does not want us to miss the significance of this event. If the lame are leaping, that means the kingdom is here. Also, the kingdom is coming. Let's think about this. A lame man that was healed was now leaping. He started praising God. When I read this story, I can't help from thinking that in a real way, I can identify with that lame man who was leaping. Before Christ, that was my life, spiritually. I was a lame man. I could not do for myself. I was completely paralyzed in sin. But, when Jesus saved me, I went from a lame man to one who was leaping. My response should be to praise God. If you are a believer, this is what you should connect. You are a lame leaper. You were lame, dead in your sins. But now, through the power of the gospel, you are now leaping. You are a declaration that the kingdom has come. Things have changed. You are now connected back to God. You were forbidden from God but now connected into his very presence. As a leaper, you praise the Lord. There is application from this very point. If you are a believer, a lame person that is now leaping, you should be praising God. Your life should be lived to praise God. The places you go you should be praising the Lord.

What is the effect of a life lived praising the Lord? People will notice. That is what we see next in the Scripture. This man entered the temple leaping

and praising the Lord. People took notice of him. The same will be true for you.

Acts 3:9-10:

**All the people saw him walking and praising God and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

Because the lame man is now leaping, everyone paid attention. They were filled with awe, amazement, and wonder...*Isn't that the same guy that asked for money? Isn't this the lame guy we see every day? How is he in here with us leaping and praising the Lord?* They are filled with wonder and amazement. When the lame start to leap and praise God, people notice. The same thing will happen in your life. When you go from death to life and start praising the Lord, giving him credit, start living for the Lord, people who knew you, people around you will say isn't that the person who used to do this? Isn't this the person who used to live for himself? Why is he now doing this? Why is he now being kind and compassionate toward me? Why is he now doing these things? People will notice. When a lame man begins leaping, people will notice. When a sinner turns to a saint, people will notice. You can actually live a life, a changed life that praises God and causes people to notice. They are in wonder over how you went from there to here. What could possibly have taken place in your life? That is what happened at the temple. People noticed the change that happened to this lame man who is now leaping Peter tells us what this means.

Act 3:11:

**While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by your own power or piety we have made him walk?"**

Peter is a good preacher. He has a crowd gathered around him...*Do we have a podium? Hey, let's do this. I am going to start preaching. Come to hear the things I have to say. A miracle has just taken place!* A lame man is



not leaping and Peter does not want us to miss why. What is this showing? What is this pointing to? First of all, he shows what it doesn't point out...*Hey guys, why are you coming to us like we are supermen? We did not do this. This was not our power or our piety. This is not a miracle that we did. Instead, it is a miracle that Jesus did through us. It wasn't because we had special powers, not because we are so good, and not because we are so pious.* I can imagine that Peter is thinking back to about 40 days ago when he abandoned Jesus. He could not think of himself as the most pious guy...*I even cussed out a little girl in the process. I didn't do what I should have done. This is not because I am good. This is not because I have power; this is because of Jesus.* The spotlight is on Peter. However, Peter took the spotlight and turned it to point at Jesus so that everyone would know why this happened. That is part of what we should be doing. When people notice us, recognize our lives, we should be like Peter and turn the spotlight to Jesus. This is not because I am so good but because the Lord is so good in me and through me. This is the Lord's doing. Peter had declared that is not our piety nor or power. Look at what Peter adds.

Acts 3:13:

**The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.**

Peter said this is not us. This is not our power or our good works. Instead, he called forth the God that he came to the temple to pray to. You want to know what happened? The God you worship, the God of all the stories of the Old Testament revealed to you, the God who came to our fathers, the God who our fathers worshipped and came to, that same God has glorified someone. That one is the servant Jesus. Notice how he described Jesus. Peter said God glorified the servant Jesus. Why does he use the word servant? The same reason he used the word leaping. Leaping pointed to Isaiah 35, which said when the Messiah comes the lame will leap. The

word servant is the same word found in Isaiah 53, the suffering servant who died in our place for our sins. Peter and Luke were connecting what was happening as fulfillment for what Isaiah and the prophets had foretold. This is the Messiah who has come and he is the one, the servant, who died in your place for your sins. That is what happened at the cross.

Notice what he says about them. He said, "...you killed the Author of life." If you think about that, it hurts your brain. You have killed the Author of life. The Author of life is the one who created life, created all of them and all of us, the one whom life exists in and through, you killed. Can you imagine if you were one of the people hearing Peter?...*Oh, that does not sound good! We killed the one who gave us life!*... Peter said while you killed the Author of Life, God raised him from the dead. In other words, you killed life, but through that, God killed death so that you can have eternal life. This is the glory of the gospel. These people killed Christ but it was in God's plan to save the world. Since we have killed the Author of life, how do we go from here? We will see that by faith they could have a different story. Yes, they are the ones who killed Jesus. They are the ones who did some bad things. But by faith, they could have a different story. We will also so see that by faith we can have a different story. The way Peter will show this is by going back to the lame man. How did the lame man get up? How was he able to walk? Peter wanted to make certain we understand it was the power of Jesus.

Acts 3:16:

**And his name – by faith in his name- has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.**

Peter wanted them to know that this was not a Peter thing. Neither was it a John thing. Nor was it an apostle thing. This was all through the name of Jesus. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man was made whole. This man was made perfect. The reason he was leaping and praising God and the reason he was walking among you was because of the name of Jesus. Jesus did this.

Peter, then, would point it back to them. Because the strong name of Jesus can make a lame man leap, there are implications for those who were listening who had murdered the Author of life. They, too, need to repent and put their faith in the Lord Jesus.

Acts 3:17-19:

**And now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.**

Peter used the example of a lame man who was now able to leap. The transformation went from really bad to really good. He pointed to them to say that what all the prophets talked about, the coming of Jesus, has happened... *You guys killed him but he arose from the dead. He is in heaven now, working through us. That is how you saw this guy raised up from his lame condition. This is what you need to do...* Then he told them they needed to repent, to turn and put their faith in Jesus, in the strong name of Jesus, so their sins would be blotted out.

Think about the people. They, probably, came there thinking they were not that bad. But, they have been told that they murdered the Author of life. That is pretty bad. They would consider themselves to be in trouble but there was good news. By faith in Jesus their sins could be blotted out, totally wiped out, erased. They could have a clean slate. They could be made clean, perfect and holy, by Christ.

The same is true for you and for me. Some of you may be pushing back... *I have heard if I believe in Christ that I will be saved. But I have a lot of sin. I have done a lot of things in my past. My past is pretty dark. If I told the Lord what I have done, I don't think there could be forgiveness. I have just gone too far...* Some of you may be thinking that you are outside the boundaries of grace because you did too many things. But, let me remind you of who Peter's audience was. They had killed the Author of life. Think about the worst thing you have done. Did you kill the Author of life? The answer is no. We haven't gone that far. They had killed the Author of life but Peter told them that if they repented, all those sins would be forgiven.

There is only grace when you come to the name of Jesus. No matter where you have been and where you may currently be, when you come and confess the strong name of Jesus, repent and believe in the death, burial and resurrection, your sins are blotted away. Your sins are forgiven. You get a new start. Just as the lame man who was leaping, you go from death to life, from sinner to saint. You become a lame leaper who praises God. This is because of Christ. It is only because of the name of Jesus. Peter offered these men the same life change that the lame man experienced. You can have whole life, perfect life, a life connected back to God. To experience this, you must repent.

If they repent, what will happen? Their sins would be blotted out, but there are two other things that Peter pointed to. There will be a refreshing and a restoration. I will argue this is a picture of not only that the kingdom has come, but the kingdom is coming. There is a right now effect to your faith in Jesus, but there is also a forever coming effect because of your faith in Jesus.

Acts 3:20-21:

**...that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his prophets long ago.**

If you repent and believe in the strong name of Jesus, the time of refreshing will come from the very presence of the Lord. The lame leaper was invited into the very presence of the Lord, the thing he couldn't come to. With repentance, you get refreshing from the presence of the Lord. I think that is a right now thing. I think the people in Acts were experiencing the refreshing power of the Lord. They were experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sin, fellowship of the believers. They were experiencing the goodness of the kingdom in the present. They were experiencing what Jesus promised...*All who are laden and heavy burdened, come to me and I will give you rest. I will refresh you. I will give you rest.* Through repentance, the people received refreshment for their souls. They received forgiveness of sin, connection back to God, and life in the body of

Christ. They experienced these things. They experienced the kingdom in the present.

If you are a believer, you are experiencing the goodness of the kingdom right now. Christ is ruling and reigning over your heart and his church. You are experiencing those things right now. There is also a not yet part. There is a future, not just refreshment. There is a future restoration of all things. Through repentance, you can have refreshment right now. God will come into your life and you will have his very presence inside of you. But, also a coming, through repentance; Christ is coming back. God will send Christ back. In his coming back, there will not be refreshment; there will be a restoration of all things. All things will be made new. Right now, there is a lame man who is leaping. But there is coming a restoration of all things where there will be no more lame men and women. There will be no more sinners, only saints. Everything is healed. There is no more fallenness. There is no more brokenness. There is no more sin. We dwell with God in a perfect new creation forevermore.

This lame man leaping is a little signpost. It is a small glimpse of things changing. Things are happening. Christ is here. But things are also coming. The restoration of all things is right around the corner. If you are connected to Jesus, you will be in that restoration of all things. Right now, Christ is in heaven and he is waiting for that moment to come back and restore everything.

Which kingdom do you find yourself in right now? The lame man leaping points to the Kingdom of Christ having come, but also is coming. The refreshing is here, but the restoration is just around the bend. Is that the kingdom you are in? By faith in Christ, are you in that kingdom with a longing for the return of Christ? You can't wait for the restoration. Or, right now, are you living in the kingdom of you? Life is just about you, how you want it. You are trying to get all of this world put together so that you can have the absolute best life right now. The moment is just it. Or, are you being refreshed and looking forward to the restoration? Are you living for the kingdom that is right now but also is not all quite here just yet? Is that the one you truly live for, truly love? Peter is trying to get these people to see that the lame is now leaping, which means the kingdom is now here

and the kingdom is coming. Therefore, you need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus so that you can be in this kingdom.

Peter next goes to Moses. He is their hero. They would all listen to Moses because he brought the law. Acts 3:22-23:

**Moses said, 'the Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'**

Moses talked about a prophet, like him, that would come and that should be listened to. You should pay attention to him because if you don't, you will be destroyed. Peter is saying that Jesus is that prophet. Jesus is the prophet that Moses spoke of. Moses said he would be like him. How is Jesus like Moses? I can think of at least two ways. Moses delivered people out of slavery. Jesus delivers us out of sin. Moses went up onto a mountain to reveal God and God's Word to the people. Jesus came down from heaven as God's Word to reveal God to the people. He is that greater prophet than Moses that we should listen to. He is the King, and the kingdom is here and the kingdom is coming. He is trying to get the Israelites to see they need to come to Jesus. The entire story of the Old Testament has always been about Jesus. Eternity is about Jesus. You, therefore, need to come to Jesus.

Now, 2000 thousand years later, Peter is saying the same thing to us. The whole story has always been about Jesus. The end of the story is all about Jesus. What we need to do is come to the Lord Jesus. By repentance in faith, we can come into the kingdom that is now and that is also coming forevermore.

Peter closes his sermon with a look back at Genesis. Acts 3:24-26:

**And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your**

**fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."**

The prophets proclaimed these days. They were referring to the days when the lame would be leaping. We are in these days. The King has come and his kingdom is here. Not only did Moses prophesy about Jesus. There was that first covenant promise to Abraham that in him, in his offspring, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. That offspring is Jesus. Jesus is the one through whom God blesses the nations. Peter used this moment when a lame man is leaping to connect all the dots. The kingdom is here, the kingdom is here, but is also coming forevermore in restoration. From that comes the very blessing of God.

What is the blessing of God? Peter said there would be a blessing to come. In verse 26, he said, "God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." Jesus came to the Jews first to bless them. When we think of God's blessing, we might typically think about health, wealth, prosperity, goodness. Goodness might be manifested in the thought of having a good day. The blessings of the Lord must be in some way like showered gifts from him. Peter defines blessings not as getting everything you want, but rather as God turning you around. The blessing of God is God turning you to himself. Peter said God would bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness. The blessing of God comes through Christ, to turn people around from their wickedness. You might counter by saying I am not quite wicked. The people going to the temple would have said the same things... *We are giving alms, we are singing, and praying, coming to church. We are doing everything we can...* That is the audience here. But Peter said all of you are wicked because you love yourself more than you love God. You need to turn around. You need to turn to God. You do that by repentance and faith in Jesus. That is how you get God's blessing. The blessing of God is God! He turns you from you to himself.

Peter used a miracle to point everyone to Jesus, and to show them what they really need is Jesus. We have a lame man who is now leaping. That is

a signpost. It points us to something. The kingdom is here, but the kingdom is also coming. Repent and believe in the Lord for refreshment now, but for restoration forevermore.

The reason I remember that baptism so vividly was not because piranhas were probably swimming around my legs. It wasn't because the man we were baptizing was paralyzed. It was the handkerchief I held in my hand. I don't know how it happened that I had the handkerchief but I did remember my responsibility, to give that handkerchief to the man who was just baptized. I was also to tell him that the handkerchief was for remembrance of his baptism. We, however, have a big problem. Both of his hands are gnarled and fisted at his chest. This has been his condition for his entire life. He has never been able to open his hands. He is completely paralyzed. His head is down because he is unable to lift it. I have the handkerchief I am supposed to give to this guy. In the water, I am thinking, what am I going to do? Plan A, I will give it to the man carrying him and he can put it somewhere where the baptized man can know where it is. I am about to give it to the assisting man when something within me says no, give it to the man. I knew this was impossible since the man could not take it. But at that moment, I knew that was what I was supposed to do. This man, with his hands up at his chest and his head down, had not looked at me the entire time we were in the water. I extended the handkerchief to him. The man looked up at me, into my eyes. He extended his hand toward me. I looked at the man and the guy who is holding him. Neither of us can believe what we were witnessing. I looked at Dad who was also amazed. I placed the handkerchief in his hand. The moment I put the handkerchief in his hand, he closed his hand and the fisted hand returned to his chest, and his head dropped back down.

The three of us standing in the Amazon River looked at each other, wondering what just happened. But we knew. It was a signpost. It was a little moment that God was showing us that the kingdom is here. Not in the fullness, this guy did not start leaping. He did not start dancing and praising God. No, it was a tiny signpost. The guy opened his hand that he



had never opened before to say the kingdom is here and the kingdom is also coming.

There are many days I think about that guy. I can imagine that when Christ comes back and his body comes out of the ground to meet with his soul and he gets his resurrected body, my guess is he will go back to the Amazon River. It will not be the old Amazon River but the new restored, perfect Amazon River, as God intended it to be. It will be in the fullness of its glory. As I go to that Amazon River, I am expecting to see a man dancing and leaping and praising God. That is what God does. He doesn't just save our souls. No, he restores all things.

Here is a moment where a man who was lame starts leaping and Peter points to. It means the kingdom is here and the kingdom is coming. The restoration has begun but it is not quite here yet. He invited all those people to come through the strong name of Jesus to be part of the kingdom that is happening now and will carry on into eternity. Are you part of that kingdom? Have you come to the name of Jesus? Have you repented of your sins and believed in him so that your sins are blotted out so that you have new life, a refreshed life that is going to be a forever life in the kingdom to come? Are you a lame leaper who now praises God?