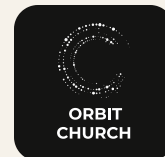


The Wonder of a Miracle

2024-03-04 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Acts 3:9-10

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

In Acts 3, a man lame from birth walks into the temple courts leaping and praising God, and the crowd is filled with wonder. Pastor Matt pointed out that the word covers delight and disturbance at the same time. And most of what follows the miracle is not celebration. It is opposition. The Sadducees, comfortable in their arrangement with Rome, were greatly disturbed. Pastor Matt's point: genuine change disturbs things. Your schedule, your priorities, your relationships. The disturbance is a sign the faith is going somewhere, not proof something has gone wrong. And do not miss the other half of the passage: many who heard believed.

To get started

- Who reacted badly when something good happened to you?

Looking back at the message

He shared that his own family questioned his conversion. That normalizes what people are experiencing.

- 1 Pastor Matt said family members questioned whether he really meant it when he first trusted Jesus. Has anyone reacted that way to a change in you?
- 2 Pastor Matt said the biggest thing his new faith disturbed was his own schedule. What has your faith disturbed, and what has it not touched yet?
- 3 Pastor Matt kept repeating one line: in following Jesus, the benefits far outweigh the consequences. Have you found that to be true yet? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Acts 3:1-10 and then Acts 4:1-4. The two halves belong together.

- 4 Read Acts 3:9-10. What word describes the crowd's reaction, and what two feelings does it hold at once?
- 5 Read Acts 4:1-3. Who was disturbed by the miracle, and what specifically bothered them?
- 6 Read Acts 4:4. What was happening at the same time as the opposition?
- 7 Read Luke 9:23. What does Jesus say following him requires, and how often? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Distinguish disturbance that comes from following Jesus from conflict that comes from us being difficult.

- 8 What part of your life would have to be disturbed for Jesus to actually be at the center of it?
- 9 Who in your life is uncomfortable with a change you have made?
- 10 Pastor Matt said plenty of us call Jesus our priority while our calendars say otherwise. What does your calendar say?
- 11 There is a difference between the disturbance of following Jesus and conflict you caused yourself. How do you tell them apart? OPTIONAL

The group together

He said more people are for you than against you. Make that concrete in the room.

- 12 Who is genuinely for you in your walk with God?
- 13 How could this group encourage someone whose family is not supportive of their faith?
- 14 What change has someone in this group made that deserves celebrating out loud?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What are you willing to let God disturb this month?

You might pray about

- For people facing pushback at home for following Jesus
- For calendars that match what we say we believe
- For courage when change is unpopular