**Healed by Jesus**

**The Word**

Read together Acts 3

**The Big Idea**

Christ has made us strange in the world for the sake of the world. We are called to move through our daily lives with a heightened sense of awareness and compassion that we might embody and share the gospel with those who need it.

**Questions for Discussions**

1. As you consider the miraculous story of Acts 3, what is standing out most to you about that moment?

2. On Sunday we were called to be “strange” (= different, distinct, set apart) for the sake of the world. Where specifically has our church become too “un-strange” in Orange County? Where have you become too “un-strange”?

3. Too paths of life are open to a group of people who feel strange in the world: 1) They hunker down, keep to themselves, and dehumanize the very people in the world they are sent to save. 2) They actively step into the world with a heightened sense of compassion and opportunity. Where have you seen both of those paths playing out in the church today?

4. A s we were challenged to offer the gospel to the people God puts in your lives, was there anyone specific in your life that God brought to mind that the group can be praying for?

**Sermon Outline**

I. Christ has made us strange in the world for the sake of the world

A. Imagine the Wise Men returning to their native land watching their people worship other gods and suddenly feeling very strange.

“We returned to our places, these Kingdoms, But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, With an alien people clutching their gods.” – T.S. Eliott

B. Imagine the disciples walking into the temple watching the sacrificial system knowing it is all for naught because it has already been accomplished in Christ.

C. When we feel strange, we instinctively look for our people/tribe, and the danger of that is we become tribal. The danger is we bunker down with others who feel strange and stop engaging the world.

D. Acts 2 is a beautiful picture of the new tribe formed around Jesus, but God had something more for them in the world. They’re going to the temple because the temple has now become the mission field.

E. We are sent into the world to be compassionately engaged with the world.

II. Peter and John’s encounter with the lame man

A. They have probably seen this lame man before, but now they’re coming in with heightened senses because they finally feel truly strange and see him differently.

B. Peter is being prompted by the Holy Spirit

C. Peter does not look down on this man; he is this man (he has experienced his own profound failures and weaknesses), so he had true compassion on this man.

III. Peter preaches again

A. In contrast to the sacrifices going on in the temple, Peter is preaching about the true sacrificial lamb

B. Jesus had redeemed Peter and said, “Feed my sheep,” and he was doing just that.

C. He saw the opportunity and offers them the gospel again—would you like another chance to receive Jesus?

IV. Christ has made you strange in the world for the sake of the world

A. God has placed you in your particular family, street, work, etc. to be hyper-aware and able to see the people around you with curiosity and compassion for the sake of the gospel.

B. God has not called us to tribalism where we stick to our tribe, isolate ourselves, and then dehumanize the very people we are actually called to reach.

C. We must be careful not to be clutching the same false gods of those around us: ease, status, wealth, etc.

D. Ministry must be personal or its not ministry. Peter had to reach out, touch this guy, and pull him up. When you share with people, there’s no boiler plate way to do that.

E. Can we see our world with some holy unease with a heightened sense that Christ has made us strange in the world for sake of world.