

# We Cannot Stop

## I. Preamble (Song & Prayer)

### A. Preamble

- I don't need to remind you of this, but it's worth reminding us all of an important fact
- *Time does not stand still*
- We see this most clearly when we view the progress of our children
- A new school year, a birthday—another step forward
- Here at Valley we have made some important steps forward this year
- A number of our Tiny Tots moved into Kindergarten Sabbath School in June
- Our Primary Classroom has fewer in it now as we have new Juniors
- With the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2018 starting next week, we have Earli-teens who are moving up to Youth and Juniors who are now Earli-teens
- What this means is that a number of our Youth are Young Adults
- So we will be making transitions with Earli-teen, Youth and forming a new Young Adult class this next Sabbath, October 6th
- Earli-teens and Youth will share use of the Youth Lighthouse Modular – we are creating group clusters, inside the Lighthouse Modular room where each class will meet
- And a new Young Adult class will begin meeting in the Library
- Juniors will transition to the Quiet Room next to the Parent's Room, right behind that window to my right, your left
- Wow! Exciting times!
- Could you do something for us, parents and children alike?
- Keep making it a Win-Win?
- A Win for the children and Win for our Sabbath School leaders and teachers
- Thank You

**B. Prayer** – Lord God, they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. The Jewish Council recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. In our study of Your Word today, come Holy Spirit and apply those words—“it was clear, they had been with Jesus”. What will happen when we too have been and remain with Jesus? We are anxious to discover the answers to that important question. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN!

## II. Message

### A. We Cannot Stop

- Like never before we are living in times of experiencing—

*a. Intimidation*

*d. Trepidation*

*g. Retaliation*

*b. Manipulation*

*e. Consternation*

*c. Repudiation*

*f. Humiliation*

- Hearts have grown cold without the love of God in the human heart
- However, we will be defenseless in facing all the attacks of darkness, unless we remember the words of Peter and the Apostles when they faced each one of these
- TEXT: Acts 4:18-21 NLT READ
- “Do you think God wants us to obey you (mankind) rather than him?”
- We cannot stop
- We need to keep standing up and telling about everything we have seen and heard
- You see, to stop means we’ve gone on the defensive—not stopping means we remain on the offensive

## **B. Roaring Stones**

- I am reminded of a story
- It was the day of Jesus’ triumphal entry
- All of Jesus’ followers (did not stop) by began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God, saying—
- *“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” (Luke 19:38—Ps.118/148)*
- TEXT: Luke 19:39, NLT READ
- Silence your followers
- Watch Jesus’ response in verse 40—

*“If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers themselves!”*

## **C. Social Media’s Attack**

- I was listening to one of our high school teachers this week, who attends here at Valley—
- They were telling me and others in a small group what they had gleaned from a visit with their students
- Apparently on social media these days, those who use social media are being strongly urged to log on and post that they don’t believe there is a God
- It’s fast becoming a craze, the flame of dissonance is being fanned by the Devil himself
- We are living in the time of the toes of Daniel’s kingdoms image
- Jesus is about to stand up and set up his eternal kingdom, AMEN!

- Our Question: *What will happen when we too have been and remain with Jesus?*
- You see, the Jewish Council tried all the tactics in the book
 

a. Intimidation	d. Trepidation	g. Retaliation
b. Manipulation	e. Consternation	
c. Repudiation	f. Humiliation	
- Although the Jewish Council tried all seven tactics—each one failed
- Because you cannot stop the name of Jesus the Nazarene once he is in you!
- There is power in the name of Jesus!
- The Psalmist says it this way—

*“This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.”*  
*Psalm 91:2 NLT*

- Let’s see it applied in our story here in Acts 3 and 4 here today

### **III. Application**

#### **A. Afternoon Prayer Service**

- TEXT: Acts 3:1-4 NLT READ
- Why did Peter say, “Look at us!”?
- Why was it necessary for the man to do this?
- When someone wants something from you, and he did, he wanted money—it would only seem proper for them to look at who their speaking to...
- But that’s not what happens—this man is carried daily the gate *Beautiful*
- He has grown quite accustom to reaching his hand up, while his eyes are downcast, and calling out —“Alms for the poor and lame, please!”
- He is like a machine, he has become a fixture here, people have grown accustom to him—most regular worshippers have long since ignored him
- He’s done this for years—doing the same thing and expecting the same result
- That’s all about to change
- For these two men, Peter and John are ordinary men, but they serve an extraordinary Master
- They have remained and been with Jesus and it has transformed their lives

#### **B. Transformation of a Life**

- TEXT: Acts 3:5-8 NLT READ
- That prayer service also became a praise service—AMEN!

- Seriously, now the people who have just passed by the fellow and entered the temple
- Something different happens for them too
- TEXT: Acts 3:9-11 NLT READ
- Picture it, right here, the people's attention is riveted on the once lame man as he is holding tightly on to Peter and John's hands
- Friend, when you stop to help a person in need, remember this—
- Don't be afraid to reach out your hand and—
  - a. help the person up if they are down
  - b. make an attempt to connect
  - c. remember this—God in his love reached down to us all in Jesus
- Why should we be afraid to do this for anyone whose life intersects our own?
- Well, it's more than this lame man who is now healed that Peter and John want to reach
- They want to reach into his heart and into each person's heart who is now listening

### **C. All Eyes are on Peter and John**

- The Holy Spirit has prepared a ready-made audience
- TEXT: Acts 3:12 NLT READ
- How did this happen? How is it that this man who was completely debilitated and could not walk, let alone leap—does so now?
- Who is able to transform a life like this?
- Peter is quick to say, it wasn't John or I, you can be sure
- Remember, when God brings about a miracle, it's right then and there we cannot stop
- We cannot hesitate, hiccup or remain silent
- The people want to know—what is the source of such a miracle, such a change! The man is the same man who was crippled, but he is different now!
- You see, if Peter and John could speak now of their past, they just might say this

### **D. We Stopped Once**

- The Upper Room is where we stopped
- We were stuck there—locked behind closed/barred doors
- But it was for fear of all our kin folk, mostly our own religious leaders
- That they too might arrest and kill us too
- It's what had happened to every other revolutionary Messiah up-start and his followers

- But our Messiah was no fluke, no fly-by-night imposter
- He actually did what he said he was going to do-
  - a. Go up to Jerusalem
  - b. Get arrested
  - c. Be tried
  - d. Violently reviled – spit upon
  - e. Beaten
  - f. Then killed
- But on the third day thereafter—he did what he said he would do, he rose to life again

#### **E. Pointing to Jesus**

- And right here is where you can hear Peter offer up the cause of the lame man’s miraculous healing
- TEXT: Acts 3:13-15 NLT READ
- This 3:00 prayer service had now become a coming-back-to-Jesus service
- Who is responsible for this miracle?
- Peter and John’s answer is on the way in the next verse
- TEXT: Acts 3:16 NLT READ

*“Through faith in the name of **Jesus**, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in **Jesus’s** name has healed him before your very eyes.”*

#### **F. Lame Man – a 40 + year case**

- Friend, when Peter says, “you know how crippled he was before”
- He’s describing how awfully twisted and crippled up the man was
- Even the Jewish leaders when they had arrested Peter and John for speaking Jesus’ name
- They said in Acts 4:14,22—We can see the man who had been healed, they knew him too, realizing he had been crippled and lame since birth, more than 40 years ago!
- His case was a hopeless, impossible case
- How is your case today?
- There’s not one of us here whose life is perfect—brokenness, disease, dangers are lurking beneath the surface of each life here
- So, this man is a type of you and me—his condition is severe enough to stand for any one of us
- And the Good News—Jesus is able, abundantly able! God is the answer!

#### **G. God, again will send you Jesus**

- You might be asking at this moment, but didn't God give the Jewish people a chance already and they blew it?
- True!
- Time and again, God had and he would again
- God doesn't give up on trying. AMEN!
- Listen as Peter makes this amazing appeal
- TEXT: Acts 3:17-20 NLT READ
  - a. "Prophets foretold, that He (Jesus) must suffer these things"

**Lesson One: All Jesus suffered was for all our sins**

- b. "Now repent of your sins and turn to God"

**Lesson Two: Repentance is agreeing with God about our sin and turning to God**

- c. "Times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah"

**Lesson Three: God promises times of refreshment**

- Do you believe this, friend?
- Jesus is seated next to the Father in heaven above
- But he and his presence doesn't want you to be alone and remain in your sin
- He wants to come down and come *again* to you and me
- So, *What will happen when we too have been and remain with Jesus?*
- Answer-We cannot stop either
- We cannot help but reach out and like the lame man be made whole
- Accept and believe in Jesus
- When we take this important step—we will set in motion a living Spirit in us which once we receive, we are set in motion and cannot stop

**IV. Close**

**A. Made Goers**

- When Jesus ascended to heaven, to his Father's side
- He gave this commission—Go into all the world and make what I am making in you
- Disciples, followers, goers
- Goers? That's right! Followers who cannot, will not stop going and telling what you've seen and heard

**V. Prayer** – Jesus, would you enter into each of us afresh, in a new, dynamic way that happens because we put our belief, our trust in you? Say it with me – *“We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”*