

## Portable Faith

**(Toby Mac “Booming” Intro)**

**Who can remember the giant home stereo systems from the 70’s and 80’s?**

- 200 watt receiver, 15” woofers (Photo)
- The neighbors all knew when you were home and they knew your favorite music!!
- Who had parents beating on your bedroom door telling you to turn the music down?
- Did anybody every have the cops come tell you to turn it down?

**But you know that was a time when people were “loud and proud”!!**

- We loved our music and wanted everyone to know it!!
- We wanted to share it with everyone!!

**Now this created a problem...**

**When we left home, we didn’t have our loud stereo, and couldn’t share our favorite tunes with the world.....**

**Someone had to do something about that!!!**

- Problem solved...
- **Introducing the “Boom Box” (photo)**
- More popularly known as the “Ghetto Blaster”
- Now you could hoist this mammoth thing on your shoulder and blast out!!
- **We were “Taking it To the Streets”!!!**
- These things were huge, loud, and took about 3 pounds worth of D cell batteries to run them!!!

**Wow...The good old days...**

- Don’t you miss that?
- Now days everyone is so reserved and quiet
- Got their earbuds on so nobody can enjoy their tunes....
- It’s all about keeping to ourselves

**(Put on earbuds and walk around, demonstration...)**

**I don’t know... I love my music, I kind of want to share it...blast it out!!**

- But these are different times we’re living in...
- I can’t impose what I love on anyone else...
- Ever stop to think someone else may want to hear what you are listening to?

It's kind of like church...

- We want to go to church on Sunday...In "The House"...
- We enjoy our faith...
- We enjoy our faith with our "Faith Family"
- But when we leave church, we kind of slip on our ear buds and try to keep it away from the world outside...
- I guess just like the stereos of old...times have changed

What I want to show you today is, **sticking to Jesus design for the church..**, as we have been discussing...

- We need to bust out the Boom Boxes and take it to the streets!!

Let me show you this:

### Acts 3:1-10

3 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, **seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple**, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "**Look at us.**" 5 **So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.** 6 Then Peter said, "**Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:** In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

We see Peter and John, recently baptized in The Holy Spirit, on their way to church...

And we see the lame man waiting to ask them for some spare change...

- **But they had something better to give!!**
- They had the **good stuff** and they were ready to share it!!!

Peter made sure he had the man's attention

- He could have given him a dollar and left him in his broken state
- But instead he gave him a **gift that would change his life forever**
- And people took notice of this miracle and **started talking!!**

**They were on their way to church...**

- **But the miracle happened outside the church**
- This could only happen because...
- Because their faith was not contained inside the church
- They took it to the streets...
- **They had made their faith portable...**

**That's what I'm talking about today...**

- **Portable faith...**

**Jesus did not design His church to be an**

- Earbud wearing,
- Blend into the crowd
- Be quiet kind of church...

**He designed us to be a**

- Ghetto Blaster hoisted on the shoulder
- Taking it to the streets
- Loud and proud kind of church!!!

**Look at us...**

- Isn't that what Peter said?

**Ever thought that was Jesus telling us that people should take notice of us?**

- Maybe we're not designed to blend in...
- Maybe we are designed to stand out in a crowd (**Photo**)

**If people don't know who we are...**

- How will they know what we have to offer?
- We have the good stuff!!
- And we're here to share it with the world!!!

**Don't you see the power in that statement?**

- "what I do have I give you..."
- "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk"!!
- Don't you think the world needs what we have?

**Many people think church is nothing more than a place to visit when they are experiencing a crisis in their life, or simply need a handout...**

**That's what this man at the gate was doing...**

- **Looking for a handout**
- **But what he got was a life change!!**
- **He got a touch from God**

**But again:**

- **He wasn't in the church**
- **He wasn't part of the church...**

**But...After he had this experience...:**

**8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God**

- **The first place he wanted to go was to church and praise God!!**
- **And, I think he out-praised everyone in there!!**

**This is a great lesson for the church today:**

- **He had a great need for God, but he didn't come in the church**
- **He was looking to Christians outside of the church**
- **And he was expecting to receive something from them...**

**This is my point:**

- **People need Jesus in their life!!**
- **But they're not busting down the doors of the church to get in!!**
- **They are however looking at us outside the church...**

**We cannot be contained to Sunday morning church in the Sanctuary.**

- **Having a great service then locking the experience behind doors till next week.**
- **We have to take it with us**
- **We must make our faith portable**
- **We cannot slip on our earbuds and blend in...**
- **We must be loud and proud!!**

**Does that mean everyone will accept us?**

**Does that mean everyplace will allow it?**

- **NO!!**
- **Read on down and into the next chapter**
- **Peter and John went to jail for this**
- **The government told them they couldn't preach Jesus**
- **But they didn't stop them, and the jail couldn't hold them...**
- **They couldn't deny the great miracle that had happened.**

**Yet, around Five Thousand people accepted Jesus as their Savior through this!!**

- **And honestly, that's probably a low number, as only the men were counted...**

**This all happened because they took their faith to the streets.**

- **Portable faith**
- **Not contained to Sunday morning church**
- **Not contained to the home**
- **Going out and giving what Jesus gave us!!**

**I'm closing with a story Jesus shared about a master who prepared a great meal and invited many guest...**

**When supper time arrived, the table was empty...**

**He told his servants to go into the streets and invite the broken and lost to come and eat...**

### **Luke 14:15-24**

#### **The Parable of the Great Supper**

**22 And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' 23 Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'**

- **There was still room**
- **Look around, there's still room in the church....**

**He didn't say sit and wait...**

- **He said make your faith portable...**
- **Take it to the streets...**
- **Compel them to come (do whatever it takes to get them here)**
- **Give them what Jesus gave you....**

**This is Jesus Blueprint got the church...**