

Title: The Beautiful Stranger
Pastor: Heinrich Titus
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At the heart of our faith

1 Corinthians 1:18 ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

What is our context?

In 2011 the population suburb Somerset West was 43 648 and the number of households was 15 720. The average household size was 2.78.

Key results for 2011 Census Suburb Strand:

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- The population is predominantly White (73%).
- 81% of those aged 20 years and older have completed Grade 12 or higher.
- 94% of the labour force (aged 15 to 64) is employed.
- 19% of households have a monthly income of R3 200 or less.
- 98% of households live in formal dwellings.
- 99% of households have access to piped water in their dwelling or inside their yard.

Key results for 2011 Census Suburb Strand:

In 2011 the population of 2011 Census suburb Sir Lowry's Pass was 8 496 and the number of households was 2 283. The average household size was 3.72.

They had been with Jesus

Acts 4:13 ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

WDJD = WWJD

Acts 10: 38 ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went *about doing good and healing all* who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

The Beautiful Stranger

Acts 3:1 ¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. ²And 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; ³who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms

1.They Noticed

Acts 3:4 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."

2. They Engaged

Acts 3:1 ¹ 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."

3. They Risked

Acts 3:1 ¹And 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."

4. They Represented Him

Acts 3:4 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."

The Beautiful Stranger becomes the Beautiful Brother

Acts 4:7 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.