

SUCH AS I HAVE BEEN BLESSED
ACTS 3:1-10

Woodland Park Church of Christ

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PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

- The apostles have been imbued with the Holy Spirit.
- With boldness, Peter has delivered the magnificent sermon on the day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:14-36**
- Christianity is taking shape; the Great Commission is beginning to be realized. **Acts 2:38-41**
- 3,000 have accepted Christ and been added to the body. **Acts 2:41**
- There is a palpable love and fervent fellowship among believers. **Acts 2:44-45**



THE LESSON TEXT

- Peter and Paul are headed to the temple to pray and encounter a man “lame from his mother’s womb.”
Acts 3:2
- The next recorded, significant, and specific event following the events of the Day of Pentecost and their aftermath. **Acts 3:1-10**
- **From this text, four points ---**



I. MAINTAIN WELL-PLACED FOCUS (ATTENTION)

- Notice the directive: *Look at us. Acts 3:4*
- Many times we miss the Lord and other blessings because our focus is off.
- Our minds, attention and focus are in the wrong places.
- Instead of focusing on matters that are wholesome, more enduring and enriching, we become distracted.
- A chief trick of the devil – to have us believe that the things that are temporal and fleeting (the bling, popularity, etc.) and have no real substance matter most.
- He (Satan) would love to have us **MAJOR IN MINORS.**



- A few relevant, introspective queries ---
 - “What captures my fancy?”
 - “What’s most important to me?”
 - “Where do I concentrate my energies and efforts?”

*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **Colossians 3:2***

*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **I Peter 5:6***



Avoid the “THE GOLDBLOCKS SYNDROME”

Unless things are ideal and just to our liking, we cannot experience contentment and joy or fully appreciate God’s blessings!



II. TRUST THAT FATHER KNOWS BEST!

- Notice the lame man is looking for monetary / material blessing, but that is not what he receives. **Acts 3:2-3, 6**
- Have to trust that God knows best and has our best interest at heart. **See Romans 8:28**
- He will never lead us astray and never ever put us in a position that harms our soul.
- In the event we find ourselves in the throes of life, He has a plan for us.
- Remember, the closed door just may be the gateway to a blessing that lasting positive consequence!
- **OBSERVATION →**



The lame man was left much better off . . .

- **First**, he has a testimony out of this world.
 - He can exclaim how the Lord touched his life!
 - “I recall when I . . .” ; “People didn’t think much of me.”
- **Second**, he can now fend for himself.
 - No longer has to play the role of a beggar.
- **Third**, he can now be a blessing!
 - Instead of seeking and always being on the receiving end of a blessing, he can now provide blessings.
 - Rather than being carried, he can now bear someone else’s burden.
 - The Lord (through apostles) extended a “hand up, not a handout” -- ***Empower vs. Enable***



III. LIVE LIFE WITH PASSION & PURPOSE!

*So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **Acts 3:8-9***

- God has delivered me!
 - Once was lost now I'm found; was once blind, but now I see.
 - My temper used to get the best of me. It once almost cost me everything I had worked hard to achieve.
 - Used to have an attraction to unsavory associates!



Recall Moses & Children of Israel (after passing through the heart of the Red Sea) ----

“I will sing to the LORD,
For He has triumphed gloriously!

The horse and its rider

He has thrown into the sea!

² The LORD *is* my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;

He is my God, and I will praise Him;

My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

³ The LORD *is* a man of war;

The LORD *is* His name.

⁴ Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;
His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The depths have covered them;

They sank to the bottom like a stone.” **Exodus 15:1-5**



I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” **Psalm 122:1**

- Being passionate is contagious; unfortunately, so is melancholy, bitterness and pessimism.
- The cemetery is an appropriate place for dead folk!

Whatever you do, do it heartily...Colossian 3:23



IV. MODEL THE IMPACT OF GOD'S TOUCH

*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.***

Acts 3:10

- People should be able to see that there has been a definite shift in who we are – thought, conduct, attitude.
- When we run across those who knew us pre-conversion, can they tell a “**BEFORE & AFTER**” story about us for the good?



*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. I Corinthians 6:9-11***



RECEIVE IT RIGHT NOW

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized . . . and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:41-42



LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17)

**Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37, 15:7;
Hebrews 11:6)**

Repent of sins (Acts 2:38)

Confess Christ (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10)

**Be baptized for the remission of sin
(Acts 2:38).**



LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**I John 1:8-9**); or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**).

