

Can Others Have What You Have?

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Central Thought

We may not always possess what people want or what they think they need. We may not always see the value of what we actually do possess. But, in every situation, God has given each of us something we can give away to another that will change their lives.

Introduction

The best opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others do not always present themselves in an obvious manner. In our story, Peter and John are going up to the temple to pray. It was customary to do so. It was a regular event. It was something they had done many times before. But today would be different.

The other person central to this story was a man referred to only as the “lame man.” This lame man was brought to the temple everyday by his friends or family so that he could eke a living through begging. It was not much of a life, but he was accustomed to it and likely did not expect anything any better.

As for Peter and John, no doubt they had passed by this man many times before. So what made this day different?

This time was different because they were ready! This is the key to making a difference in someone's life—we've got to be ready and looking for the opportunity.

Are you ready? Are you prepared? If you know Jesus as Savior you are.

2 Corinthians 4: 1-7

1Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Theses two disciples were lacked everything the man asked for, but they knew they still had an opportunity to make a difference in his life. Peter's response to the man's request was, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you." And the lame man was healed!

Although *some* of the people around you may need a miracle, *everyone* around you would love to have someone touch their life in a life-changing way.

You and I do not have to have "silver and gold" or even the ability to perform miracles in order to make a difference in their lives. We need only to see them and their need and give something to them out of what we possess.

The ways you can make a difference are endless, but they all involve you giving of yourself.