

**Free to Give
What We Have to Give
Acts 3:1-10
January 15, 2017**

Give the **BEST** even when people are satisfied with **SOMETHING LESS**.

1. Engage the hopeless in the **PUBLIC SQUARE**. Acts 3:1-5

Acts 3:1-10 — 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

v.1 That Peter and John were together in this work was a practice that was established back during the ministry of Moses when he wrote that "on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed"

Ephesians 6:18 — 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

2. Turn **FELT** needs towards **OMNIPOTENT** resources. Acts 3:6-8

6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

That's when Peter does the unexpected...what I do have I give to you.

3. Rejoice in the **RADICAL CHANGE** Jesus brings. Acts 3:9-10

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

D. Martin Lloyd-Jones, minister at Westminster Chapel in London during WW II...Now I am a very unworthy man. I have only one reason for being a preacher: It is because God has called me. I am

the purveyor of His message. I have nothing else. It is His power, His command; and through me He is saying to you in your utter helplessness and your misery and hopelessness, perhaps your cynicism, perhaps your final despair, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

We are free to give people the **BEST** even when they might well be satisfied with **SOMETHING LESS!**

Let's talk about what we have to give...

1. What reasons could Peter and John have had for going up to the temple at the hour of prayer (v.1)?
2. Have you ever been told by a superior that you needed to be quiet about your faith at work/school? How did you respond?
3. Try to imagine what life must have been like for this lame man. Describe what you think an average day must have been like for him (v.2)?
4. Where was the lame man placed to ask for alms and why do you think it was such a good place to be doing that (v.2)?
5. How do you feel when you see someone begging on a street corner?
6. Why did Peter have to tell the beggar to look at them and what does that say about his outlook on life at this point (v.4)?
7. What did the beggar expect to receive from Peter and John (v.5)?
8. What do you think our community expects to receive from us as followers of Jesus?
9. Why did Peter tell the beggar that he didn't have any silver and gold, especially in light of what Luke says about the contributions of the church at the end of Acts 2 (v.6)?
10. What did Peter have to give this beggar (v.6)? What do we have to give to hurting people in our community?