

"I'LL SHARE WITH YOU"

Acts 3:1-11

Introduction: The healing of the lame man at the gate called "Beautiful" of the temple is indeed a very wonderful things for:

- the temple was the place of public worship, some came to worship, some came for other reasons.
- the needs of others should not be ignored by God's children.
- the healing of this cripple is a beautiful picture of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ.

Everybody needs help at some time or other and God's Children should be the first ones to share with others whatever they have.

I. EVERY PERSON IS BORN SPIRITUALLY HELPLESS (v2)

1. This man at the temple gate's helplessness was a birth defect. He was born that way.
2. Every human being is born with a spiritual defect - blind, deaf and helpless.
3. God must do a work of Grace in the heart before healing of the spirit can come.
4. This crippled man was chosen as an object of divine mercy and he was healed.
5. God is determined to give spiritual mercy and healing to those who will receive it.

II. PEOPLE NEED TO BE TOLD THAT "RELIGION" WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST IS USELESS

1. They were at a beautiful building built to worship God.
2. God was not there, however, and all the beauty of the building could not help anybody in need.
3. Rituals, talent, entertainment, ceremonies, wealth, staff and such without Jesus Christ are only hollow forms of "religion" having no power, no grace and no life.

III. GOD HAS CERTAIN WAYS THAT HE USES TO GIVE HIS MERCY (vv1-5)

1. God could do His works of mercy by just a thought, but God chooses otherwise.
 - Jesus could have raised Lazarus from the dead without any help, but He chose to use others, *"...Take ye away the stone..."*
2. There are three things that had to be done by others before God's healing mercy was received:
 - The right people had to be there - Peter and John.
 - The crippled man had to be at the right place - brought by his friends.
 - All three had to do the right thing at the right time - Peter and John had to say the right thing and the crippled man had to do what they told him to do.

IV. THIS IS ALSO A PICTURE OF HOW SPIRITUAL HEALING TAKES PLACE (vv6-8)

1. As this crippled man's body was healed, even by faith in Jesus can the helpless spirit within a person be healed and restored to life.
2. The same three steps must be followed:
 - the right people - the right message - the right response.
 - someone must be obedient to God to witness - the right message must be spoken - the hearer must respond to that message in obedience.

V. THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS ALWAYS EFFECTIVE (vv8-11)

1. The Gospel offers salvation and eternal life to all who wish to come to Jesus Christ.
2. The Gospel is the means by which God, through His Holy Spirit, brings those who will come to Jesus Christ.
3. The Gospel gives praise, honor, and glory to God for His mercy and goodness.

CONCLUSION:

1. People go to places of worship for different reasons.
2. Beautiful places of worship do not mean that God is necessarily there.
3. Every human being is born spiritually dead and is helpless to bring about any change.
4. God has chosen to use His Children to be the instruments through which He works to bring His message of spiritual healing - His Gospel.
5. Everyone involved must be obedient to God: right people, right place, right words.
6. God must be the only one receiving the credit, glory, honor and praise.