

What are we seeking? Acts 3:1-26

When you pray, what do you pray for? When you attend worship, why do you come? If you claim to be a Christian, why do you make that claim?

What are you seeking? From God? From the Church?

Physical healing, provisions, safety - these have some value, but if we stop there, **we will miss out on something far greater that God offers us!**

- **What was this lame beggar seeking at the temple that day?**

He was asking for alms, any gift of charity, to help him in his need!

Churches are often the recipients of many people who are looking for a handout. *How should the church respond to that/them?*

- **Why did this group of unnamed individuals carry this man to the temple?**

They must have thought that God's house, the temple, was the best place for a person who was in need of help!

Are we the kind of church that the people in our community point others to who are in need? Do we have such a reputation?

We live in a world filled with broken and hurting people, how do we help them? *What needs are we called to meet as the Church?*

- **Why was Peter and John at the temple that day?**

They came to pray, but got sidetracked by this beggars request for alms. But it was in this distraction that something truly miraculous took place!

I'm glad they weren't running late and rushing to church. **I'm glad they weren't too busy "with church" to "be the church".**

They took notice of this man, and though they couldn't give him what he was seeking, they gave him something far more!

Are we a church that is willing to go in a different direction for the sake of providing for a greater need? What might this look like in our lives?

- **The healing of this man got people's attention, it drew a crowd! Why?**

The miraculous always turns heads, but this was more than just a lame man walking, **this was a cripple who is now leaping & praising God!**

Why don't we see these kinds of miraculous displays today?

Could it be that the miracles in the 1st century church were intended for more than just physical healing?

- **What was the point of all of this? What was this greater purpose?**

This miraculous event gave Peter a platform to proclaim the name of Jesus! It gave him the opportunity to speak w/an authority not his own.

What the people were not seeking was Jesus as their Lord & Messiah! They actually had denied Him, delivered Him over, & had Him crucified!

This miracle gave Peter the chance to point the crowd to the One in whose name the miracle was accomplished, the One who God raised from the dead, and the One in whom salvation is found!

Too often we miss the forest for the trees! We get so focused on the miraculous that we forget the purpose behind it!

Jesus, & the apostles, performed miracles primarily to authenticate their message & give evidence to the forgiveness of sins found in Christ!

Jesus truly was God's servant, the Christ, the promised Messiah. He is the Holy & Righteous One. He is the Author of life & they rejected Him!

The greater miracle of this passage is that God, thru Jesus Christ, did not treat the people as they deserved, but instead He opened up a way of forgiveness & salvation for those who were crippled in their sin!

Sin was/is a disease from birth that every one of us lives with and needs healed from! We are all lame beggars spiritually! And what we are seeking is often not what we truly need!

We need more than physical healing, provisions & safety from God, we need His forgiveness, & salvation that is only found by faith in Jesus!

To receive this is truly a miracle, & one that every one of us can experience!

6-3-18 What are we seeking? Acts 3:1-26

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