

Sunday, Sep 7, 2025
Sierra Vista Community Church, Las Cruces, NM
Acts Sermon Series: Pray Send Go
Give Them Jesus, Acts 3:1-10

Introduction—Do you ever wonder if you have anything to offer to anyone? I mean, something that is of value, like some sort of service or goods? Maybe you really just assume you got nothing to offer. Like, what would anyone want from me?

I have some good news for you! No, really. If you are here and you are a child of the living God, you have Jesus to offer. You really don't need anything else because He is everything. All the other stuff that people need that can receive from someone else. But Jesus can only be offered by other believers. God wants you to give them Jesus!

Stand & Read—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.

Pray

1. When you pray, God is available—verses 1-2

- A. John and Peter were going to pray.
- B. They have positioned themselves by seeking the supernatural God.
- C. Sometimes we don't even have to begin to pray, and God knows our heart.
- D. **Verse 1**—They are going to pray. They have yet to pray.
- E. The text doesn't lead us to know much except they were on their way to pray.
- F. They could have been fasting before this appointed prayer time. They could have been praying on the way to the prayer location.
- G. We don't know. What we can take from this verse is that preparation was being made to meet with God.
- H. What we do is the instructions that we're given by Jesus before His accession into heaven.
- I. **Acts 1:4-5**—On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which

you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- J. The apostles were in Jerusalem waiting, praying and doing what they were told by the Messiah.
- K. When God says wait, He doesn't necessarily mean do nothing. While we wait, we pray for direction. We seek for the right moment to do His will.
- L. Now that the Holy Spirit has infilled the followers of Jesus, it was time to do what they were asked in Acts 1:8
- M. **Acts 1:8—8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- N. When supernatural power is given to us, we have the responsibility to act. In this case they were asked to be a witness beginning with right where they were.
- O. Witness about Jesus and His transforming power to those who know you the best. It is always the hardest place to start. The people around us know us so well, don't they?
- P. So, I believe that is what John and Peter were doing.
- Q. **Verse 2**—A man who had major health issues was on the path to Peter and John's Prayer location, the Temple Courts.
- R. They were going to an area that was called the Beautiful Gate.
- S. The reason it was called the beautiful gate was because of the gold that adorned it. another name as it was known was the Golden Gate.
- T. King Herod named this gate during his reign. It isn't for certain if this is absolute, but it in no way changes the heart of this event.
- U. This lame man was at this gate every day. Could you imagine. He begged for money so he could support himself. Back then there was no government support or disabilities act to rely on.
- V. Here is the big picture. Friends carrying this man every day to go beg instead of helping the man themselves.
- W. Now we don't know the whole story because all we have is this small portion of Scripture to go by.
- X. Alms giving, meaning giving to the poor and needy was consider a meritorious act. That means you would receive credit for your giving.
- Y. Those going to the temple would have an alms offering to give, therefore this man was hoping to be the recipient of this offering.
- Z. God sees us when we give to those in need, but we can't do it if all we want is the credit. We do so out of our love for God and for His glory and credit.

Illustration—Five Loaves and Two Fishes

God uses what you have to fill a need which you never could have filled.

God uses where you are to take you where you never could have gone.

God uses what you can do to accomplish what you never could have done.

God uses who you are to let you become who you never could have been

Application—Are you truly praying for God to use whatever you have, wherever you are, whatever you can accomplish, and whoever you are, to be who He can use?

2. When you pray, get ready for opportunities—verses 3-7

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.

- A. **Verse 3**—Here is the opportunity. A man asks Peter and John for money.
- B. They could have said nothing and walked right by as if the man was invisible. We have all done that, right. We pretend they don’t exist.
- C. We don’t like it when people ask us for money, do we? It one of those commodities that takes a lot of hard work to obtain.
- D. Maybe it is the idea of someone who didn’t earn it asking you for something you did earn. I’m not sure, but it makes us uncomfortable.
- E. That is where the gift of empathy and the gift of giving come into play. Many don’t have those 2 gifts. Many don’t want those gifts.
- F. We must begin to view every event that happens in our life as an opportunity to act on behalf of Jesus. That is why we are here.
- G. **Verse 4**—This is Peter’s reaction to the man asking for money. Look at us! Now, I like to visualize what was happening here and try to think outside the box.
- H. Was Peter saying to this man, does it look like we have money? Look at us! Money isn’t going to help you in your situation.
- I. **Verse 5**—The man and Peter and John lock eyes. What the beggar was about to hear probably threw him for a loop. The text says that the beggar looked at them expecting to receive a coin, or a dollar, or maybe even a peso. Something.
- J. But what happen next is nothing short of a miracle!
- K. **Verse 6**—Peter utters words that should be a regular part of any believer’s conversation. ***I don’t have silver or gold, but I have something better!***
- L. I have Jesus, and He has a powerful name!
- M. In Jewish customs a name represents the very being of a person’s nature!
- N. The power of the person is present and available in the name of that person!
- O. ***When we invoke the name of Jesus, we invoke the very nature of His being which comes with all power and everything that represents His name!***
- P. Why do you end all your prayers “In Jesus’ Name?” Because there is power in that name.
- Q. Don’t just say, “Amen”, after you pray. Pray in Jesus’ name so you can have the power!
- R. **Verse 6**—Peter says in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!
- S. Peter gave the power to the man and in his faith to walk, he was healed.

- T. **Acts 3:16—16** By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.
- U. **Power + Faith = Healed.** Nobody gets healed with those 2 elements.
- V. **Verse 7**—Peter not only invoked the name of Jesus, but he also then goes even a step further by extending his hand to help the beggar up.
- W. Now that is faith even on Peter's part. He knew that His God that could raise a dead man from the grave, can easily heal a lame man from the earth!

Illustration—2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, 7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Before you set out to start healing people in Jesus name, I want to remind you that all healing is from God, therefore He can also choose not to heal you for the benefit of others. Paul asked 3 times to be healed and Jesus said no. Paul had the power and he definitely had the faith, but that's where it ends with us. The healing is God's hands.

Application—Are you looking for opportunities when you pray? If you are just going through the motions when you pray, don't expect God to act on your behalf. Pray with all of your heart. Pray with expectations that God's going to breakthrough. Pray and watch Him work in your life!

3. When you pray, God gets all the glory—verse 8-10

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.

- A. God is the recipient of our praise when He acts on our behalf. We must give Him all the credit.
- B. **Verse 8**—Look at God work! The lame man begins to walk and better yet begins to jump up and down praising Peter! Not really, he knew it wasn't Peter that healed, it was God Himself!
- C. **Verse 9-10**—Others saw this miracle and they were filled with awe because they knew that this man was crippled before! They were amazed at what God had done.

- D. We should be amazed at what God does all around us and even to us. We are all miracles if we have Jesus living on the inside of us.

Application—Are you giving God all the glory when He moves in your life or in the life of others around you? If not, why not? Start today! Give God the glory in your life!