

## THE BLESSINGS AND POWER OF COMMITMENT

### ACTS 3:1-10

#### Introduction:

##### A. It is good to be committed to a good thing

- 1) Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not eat of the King's meat. Dan. 1:8
- 2) The three Hebrew would not worship the golden image or serve false gods. Dan. 3:18
- 3) Daniel kept his committment to pray, on his knees, facing Jerusalem, 3 times a day. Dan. 6:10
- 4) Lydia, a seller of purple, who was living in the city of Philippi. Acts 16:13....."out of the city by a river side", "where prayer was wont to be made"

##### B. Peter and John had a committment

- 1) They had been in the habit of Temple worship and of prayer
- 2) They kept this committment

#### I. A Pattern of Prayer Vs. 1

##### A. "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour."

- 1) "went up together" = anabaino = "They were ascending the terraces to the temple court"

##### B. There might have been many "new treasures" that these men had not learned

- 1) God would ultimately reveal more truth
- 2) One thing that they knew for certain, old covenant, New covenant, prayer would be an integral part of their service to God

II. The Penalty of Sin Vs. 2

A. "And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, when they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple.

- 1) "lame" = cholos = "crippled in the feet"
- 2) His was a day by day ordeal
- 3) "ask alms" = The Jews were required by their law to give alms.

B. Who did sin, this man or his parents?

- 1) John 9:2
- 2) This man was born blind as a result of the sin principle, not sin personal.

III. The Providence of God Acts 3:3

A. "who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alm."

- 1) He was lame, not blind, he saw them.
- 2) Jesus saw the blind man!

B. The providence of God is a potent factor in lives of us all

- 1) Suppose this man had refused to go to this his usual place?
- 2) Suppose Peter and John had, "felt bad"?
- 3) We don't want to "fight God"
- 4) Romans 8:28

IV. The Interest of the Preachers Vs. 4

A. "And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us."

- 1) "fastening" = aten = "to gaze intently upon"
- 2) "look" = blepo = "to observe accurately with desire"
- 3) "Look straight at us" "Pay attention!"

B. This man probably was not looking at them

- 1) He was probably embarrassed because he was crippled
- 2) He probably felt shame and self-pity
- 3) He was filled with his own failures

V. The Expectation of Man Vs. 5

A. "And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them"

- 1) "heed" = epecho = "to have or hold upon", "to direct upon", "to pay attention to"
- 2) "expecting" = prosdokao = "to watch toward", "to expect", "to look for"  
"Hope springs eternal in the human breast"

B. Men in need harbour expectations

- 1) These may be our private dreams
- 2) His to walk, to have a family, etc.
- 3) Perhaps, just a small amount of money

VI. The Poverty of Preachers Vs. 6a

A. "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee."

- 1) "I do not possess silver and gold"
- 2) "but I will give you what I do have"

B. We don't need purchasing power!

- 1) We need preaching power!
- 2) Willingness to give what we do have!

VII. The Power of God Vs. 6b-7

A. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

- 1) The name of the anointed one is Jesus. And it is Jesus of Nazareth
- 2) "rise up and walk" = peripateo = "to walk about"

B. "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength"

- 1) "took" = piexo = "to seize"
- 2) "lifted" = eyeiro = "to raise"
- 3) "immediately" = parachrema = "at the very moment"
- 4) "strength" = "to make stable, firm, strong"

VIII. The Purpose of Miracles Vs. 8-11

A. The man himself was blessed Vs. 8

- 1) He leaped up and he walked
- 2) He went into the temple
- 3) He praised God

B. People saw what he did Vs. 9

- 1) He was visible
- 2) He was vocal

C. The incident raised people's interest Vs. 10

- 1) They knew who this man was
- 2) They were filled, they were totally overpowered by emotions
  - a. "wonder" = thambos = "awe", "surprise", "amazement"
  - b. "amazement" = ekstasis = ecstasy = "to take hold of", "a trance", "the state of rapture"