

“There’s More to Life than Money” Acts 3:1-10 and Gal. 4:3-7

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Introduction: What is your value based on?

There are many ways people determine the value of objects and possessions. But how can you place a value on people? A person is worth more than the money they earn, or the possessions they own. Our worth is based on something much greater than mere money or possessions, our worth is based on the fact that we are created in the image of God, that God so loved us, that He even gave His own begotten Son to die for our sins and pay the ransom for our freedom from sin and death. If we take the Bible seriously, if we believe that Jesus was sent for a purpose, and that purpose extends to you and me as we can believe and be redeemed through a faith relationship with Christ, then it is that our value to God, our worth to God, is priceless.

Your worth to God? **Priceless.**

In the video we saw earlier about the LIGHTHOUSE I hope that you considered how the church is to be like a lighthouse, in that it is to shine as the Body of Christ. The light of Jesus shines through His people to guide lost souls to salvation. His light shines through His people who in turn shine to give glory to God.

To be a lighthouse keeper involves having faith to take care of the light, to faithfully keep the light burning hour after hour, day after day, year after year.

To be lighthouse keepers, in serving Christ’s church involves **unselfish dedication** and **commitment**. We have to believe that someone is benefiting from the light, even when we can’t always see them, or know them, upon life’s sea.

There are times when faithfully bearing the light will inspire or reorient a lost soul, and persevere their life for heaven’s shore.

In our scripture passage today, Peter and John were faithful bearers of the light of Christ. They shared the light of salvation in Jesus Christ with a man who had lived in bondage and darkness his whole life.

I. The Value of **Worship** (1)

Faithfulness leads to **blessings**.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.

Peter and John were first of all faithful in worship. They understood the value of WORSHIP, and because they were faithful in worship this led to them being blessed and strong, and when you are blessed by worshipping God in Spirit and truth through Jesus Christ, you are prepared and ready to bless others in life, and so give God glory. The Value of WORSHIP is not just personal, it is for the GLORY of God first of all, and it is for inspiring God’s people for acts of service and compassion.

II. People are valued for the Wrong Reasons (2)

² Now a man crippled 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. Some people are **entrapped** in sin. This man had been brought to the temple from early on in his youth. He was seen by many and people gave money to help

him. His friends who brought him may have benefited from the earnings, so it was that those who brought him may have valued him for the wrong reasons, for the money he could obtain while begging. The crippled man was stuck in a perpetual cycle of begging, and looking for the next dollar or meal to be given to him. You could say that he was stuck in a survival mode, living hand to mouth, a day for a dollar.

III. Just going through the **motions** (3)

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

Some people are **unaware** of grace

Peter was moved to break through to this crippled man with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. Peter understood what the power of God's grace could do, even though this man was unaware of God's grace. When the man made eye contact with Peter and John, Peter realized that this was a man who needed help to be set free from his routine and demoralizing condition of begging.

IV. Seeing People in God's **Eyes** (4)

⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

Look into the **window** of the soul.

V. False **Expectations** (5)

⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Realize that people are spiritually **blind**.

When people have a great need they are not always aware of something more than what they have always experienced. False expectations can either be failed understanding of what is really important, or it can be ignorance. In this case, the man was expecting to get something from the disciples, his expectation was limited by his experience, and who he had known.

VI. Giving What People **Need**. (6)

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

Share the Gift of **Grace**. How do we share grace? Through friendship and care, through sacrifice and forgiveness, kindness, patience, truthfulness, gentleness, faith, self-control and through generosity of Spirit.

Money is often overrated. That's why we should be more free to give it back to the Lord, that is why we should not hesitate to give our tithes and offerings to God. If we truly trust God, and remember that God has already given us the greatest gift in Jesus Christ, and HE IS WHO WE NEED daily, then we come to know that we have our needs met in HIM. Peter did not have money to put in the beggars hands, but what He did have was the power of the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ.

IF YOU HAVE JESUS, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING.

(Paul's secret to contentment) ^{Phil 4:12} ***I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any***

and every situation, whether well fed or hungry,^y whether living in plenty or in want.^z Phil 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.^a

VII. Help People Receive Grace with **Faith** (7)

⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Give people a hand, have a **heart** that reaches.

VIII. Praise to God **Grows** with Redemption. (8)

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.

Progressive **realization increases as we walk with others in praise as they become strong.**

Cancer walk – Many people joined together. Challenge for next year.

IX. Redemption will **Glorify** God. (9-10)

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.

Join in God's Work of Wonder – care and pray.

Is God still healing people today? YES.

When? God heals people to show His love and to reveal His Son Jesus Christ.

God also heals to display His glory and express His grace.

God calls us to join in the ministry of healing through prayer, through caregiving, through medical assistance.

(NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN SERMON unless there is time for it)

I was reading about a man named Rev. Jaerock Lee, from Korea. In the crusades that are held where he preaches, many people have been healed. In Peru, from Thursday, December 2 to Saturday, December 4, 2004, at Campo de Marte in the Peruvian capital city of Lima, "The 2004 Peru Great United Crusade" (Felipe Huamani Reyes, Chairman of the Preparation Committee) took place. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to hear the Gospel of sanctification, and countless people stood up from their wheelchairs and threw away crutches while people who had been suffering from all kinds of diseases including AIDS received healing. The thunderous explosion of the power greatly glorified God. Prior to the Crusade, the Rev. Jaerock Lee visited Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo at the presidential residence, exchanged a warm dialogue, and prayed for Peru, the president, and his family.

Rev. Lee 's Story: One day in April of 1974 when I had wandered in the valley of death for seven years, my second elder sister who lived in the countryside came and asked me to guide her to a place called Hyun-Shin-Ae's Altar. I couldn't say no to her and I went

there by holding my sister's arms and using my stick. When I entered to the place, I was so surprised. There were so many people praying loudly. They looked out of their minds to me. I thought I had to get out of that place before I also became crazy. But I was even more surprised to see my sister, who was a quiet person by nature, lifted up and shook her hands while praying. As people kept coming in and my sister didn't seem to care about me while she was praying, I didn't know what to do. So I just knelt down and closed my eyes as others did. At the very moment, my body suddenly became hot and it oozed sweat. Since that day, miraculous things began to happen. I hadn't been able to hear any sound because my eardrums were split. But I could hear the voices of people. My intake was a few spoonfull of rice only, but I had a sudden urge to eat more and could eat a bowl of steamed rice at once with some meat. The pus in my ears and the joints and the lumps were gone. The skin disease disappeared!

"How come this happened?"

By the power of God. He healed all my diseases. My wife and I wept for joy as we saw that seven years of pain were passed away. Recalling what had happened the day before at Hyun-Shin-Ae's Altar, I knelt down before God and prayed to him. "Oh, God! Thank you! You are really alive! You healed all my diseases!".

PRAYER for God's Healing. We can experience God's healing and redemption in our time.