

Locked On To Opportunity

Key Verses: Acts 3:6, 7 “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." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.” - *NIV*

Power Point: God has always made a way for His Church to seize any opportunity to spread the Gospel. It is up to God’s children to recognize the opportunities and act immediately.

1. Acts 3:1,2, Num 13:30, 1 Sam 17:32 ~ We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems.

- What opportunity have you had recently to minister to someone?

2. Acts 3:4-8 ~ God never asks us to give what we don’t have; He expects us to give to those in need from what He has given us.

- What is God asking you to give to someone in your family, workplace, neighborhood....?

3. Acts 3:10-12, 2:7,12 ~ As you reach out to your neighbor, co-worker etc. others will undoubtedly take notice.

- Has anyone taken notice of you when you ministered to someone? If so how did it impact them?

Application: When was the last time you shared the gospel or ministered to someone? This week ask God to show you what opportunities he wants you to “Lock on to” and don’t let go until you see other, rise up and walk.

Locked on to Opportunity

Intro: God has always made a way for His Church to seize any opportunity to spread The Gospel. It is up to God's children to recognize the opportunities and act immediately.

History:

In chapter two of the book of Acts, we have an account of the descent of the Holy Ghost upon Christ's disciples (Acts 2:1-4). The disciples **were all filled with the Holy Ghost** - they were under his sacred influence and power and they spoke in tongues. Peter preached a message calling for the repentance to the amazed on-lookers (v.12, v.38). About three thousand came to know Christ as savior that day (v41). Jerusalem was now in a full swing revival. Verse 46 tells us, that they continued in one accord in the temple and from house to house.

At the temple is where we pick up today's narrative.

Acts 3:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

⁴ **And fixing his eyes on him**, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

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

⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. (See Acts2:12)

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

History Cont.

- As with any person seeking a hand out this man scanned the eyes of those who walked by; hoping to make eye contact. This usually means the possible donor is a person of compassion.
- It was common practice for devoted Jews to go to the Temple Three times a day to pray-9 A.M., 12 noon, and 3 P.M. [3:2](#). The description of **a man crippled from birth** emphasizes his hopeless condition. He was more than 40 years old ([4:22](#)). People **carried** him **every day** to the **temple gate** so that he could **beg**. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary.)
- This is more than likely one of the many trips to the temple that Peter and John had made together. Miracles and wonders were the result of the Out-pouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), so these two disciples were obviously looking for OPPORTUNITIES to share God's goodness. As they come to the Temple this day they find a new opportunity.

Using Acts 3 I'd like to share five points on how to seize the opportunities:

1. Be at the right place and be on time.

Acts 3:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

- a) Peter and John new that the Holy Spirit was guiding their every step. (although they had been to the Temple many times before, it wasn't routine for them)
- b) God has timing for everything.
 - (Num. 13-14), Moses sent 12 men to spy "The promise Land" Their delay cost them 40 years and in the wilderness.

Numbers 13:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "**Let us go up at once** and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

2. See past what's in front of you

Acts 3:2 (NKJV)

² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems (author Unknown)

- a) They saw an outstretched hand.
- b) Their spirit man saw an opportunity.
- c) David was a man who saw opportunity

1 Samuel 17:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath.....

1 Samuel 17:32 (NKJV)

³² Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

3. Find you're target and hold on tight

Acts 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

Fastening his eyes - The word used here denotes "to look intently, or with fixed attention."

- Peter demanded the man's attention
- He knew this was a GOD opportunity

These men had recently been involved in an evangelistic effort which brought thousands to Christ. Now God tells them, this one lost sheep is just as important to him as the thousands to whom they preached at Pentecost.

God is not interested in the number of people you and I teach or disciple or influence; he watches how faithfully we seize opportunities for ministry.

4. Realize what you don't have, so that you can use what you do have.

Acts 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

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

- Peter recognized the importance of getting his limitations out of his way.
- Too often man relies on his own resources. (Knowledge, finances, power,)
- They were in the middle of a great move of God in Jerusalem.

Acts 2:42-43 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

- but what I do have I give you.....

God never asks us to give what we don't have; he expects us to give to those in need from what he has given us, and always to do it in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

..... Jesus Christ of Nazareth...

In Semitic thought, a name does not just identify or distinguish a person; it expresses the very nature of his being.

- When God calls you to do something, he enables you to do it. (Robert Schuller)

.....**Acts 3:6 (NKJV)**

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

4. Realize what you don't have, so that you can use what you do have.

GOD'S BEST

The crippled man asked for money, but Peter gave him something much better—the use of his legs. We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. When we ask God for help, he may say, "I've got something

even better for you." Ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when he gives you what you really need. (Life Application Bible Commentary)

Acts 3:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God.

In the midst of all that walking, jumping, and praising, this former cripple, this outcast, entered the temple courts. For the first time in his adult life. (since a person with a defect was not allowed to enter temple worship Lev. 21:16-18).

- **When the paralytic man entered the Temple he was doubly blessed**
First-his physical healing
- **Second- (and yet greater than the first he was able to enter the Temple court yard for the first time as an adult.**
- **As an infant it is possible that his condition went unnoticed. But here we see a restoration of the privilege to enter, what represented, to the Jew of that day the presence of God.**
- **This amounted to restoration to the Father. Enter his courts with thanksgiving.**
- **This was possibly the very same door that Jesus was carried into when he was presented to the Lord.**

5. Watch for the “ripple affect”

One Opportunity Leads to Another

Acts 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the

temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

- This was the same reaction men had when the 120 were baptized with the Holy Ghost in:

Acts 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

Acts 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

- Peter reacts the same way as he did in Acts 2
- He shares the Good News

Acts 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

Acts 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

- As you reach out to your neighbor, co-worker etc. Others will undoubtedly take notice.
- Seize the ripple affect and meet that need too.

Conc.

- When disasters happen the church is the first organization worldwide that pours itself out to help those in need.
- Men and women all around the globe come together in one accord.
- Denominational, political, social, lines disappear
- God is calling the His Church to rise up:

Be at the right place and on time.

See past what's in front of you.

Lock on to the Opportunity

Realize what you don't have, so that you can use what you do have.

Watch for the "ripple affect"

One Opportunity Leads to Another

This week ask God to show you what opportunities he wants you to "Lock on to", and don't let go until you see other, rise up and walk