

“Some Things \$ Can’t Buy!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Ch.2** we are given an **analyses** of the church;
Ch.3 we see **the church in operation!**
 - 1.1.1. In the book of Acts we are not confined to **didactic teaching**; **it also** tells **stories**; it gives **examples & illustrations** of all that it puts before us in **instruction**.
 - 1.1.2. **Here we view the gospel/church in action, as something **living & real!****
 - 1.1.3. A **“dead church”** is a contradiction in terms.
 - 1.1.3.1. It may be a **dead something**, but not a **dead church!**
 - 1.1.3.2. **The church is life, it is power, it is energy!**
 - 1.1.4. Here is the church...in action! **A church with Relevance!**
- 1.2. **Relevant means:** [1] **connected:** having some sensible or logical connection with something else [2] **having social significance:** having some bearing on or importance for real-world issues, present-day events, or the current state of society.
 - 1.2.1. Synonyms: Significant, important.
 - 1.2.2. **My life, the church, the gospel,...Relevant today?**

2. **SOME THINGS \$ CAN'T BUY! (1-11)**

- 2.1. (1,2) **Lame from his mothers womb** – When they arrived at the temple gate, called *Beautiful*, a cripple man was in the process of being **carried & placed** there to beg for alms from those entering the temple.
 - 2.1.1. If **being a cripple** brought him to this exact place at the perfect time, **do you think he’s up in heaven mad at God for making him a cripple?**
- 2.2. **To ask alms** – Picture him laying his hat on the pavement...another day! [40 yrs 4:22]
 - 2.2.1. **Location, location, location** - Those who entered the temple would be particularly disposed to practice their piety by generously giving alms to a lame beggar.
 - 2.2.2. **Almsgiving** was one of the main ways to show **kindness**, & thus was considered **a major expression** of a person’s devotion to God.¹
- 2.3. (3) **Never be religiously too busy!**
 - 2.3.1. They were on their way to **prayer**.
 - 2.3.2. **Never too busy for individuals...**just like their Master showed them.
 - 2.3.3. **Never too busy in ministry for prayer!**

¹ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.13

- 2.4. And their *prayer times* were very important to their culture.
- 2.4.1. Ps.55:17 **“Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”**
- 2.4.2. According to one Talmudic source (B'rakhot 26b) the 3 prayer services were instituted **after the fall of the 1st Temple** to replace the sacrifices.
- 2.4.3. Daniel did this during the Babylon Exile (6:11) **“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees 3 times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”**
- 2.4.4. The three services are called **Shacharit** (“morning”), **Minchah** (“afternoon”; the word means “gift, offering”) and **Ma-ariv** (“evening”).
- 2.5. The man laying at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple is a picture of **humanity in a state of sin**. (he couldn't enter)
- 2.5.1. **Unworthy for worship** under the old religion of Israel, he now finds acceptance *in the name of Jesus!*
- 2.6. **[1] THIS MAN WAS BORN THIS WAY!** (D.O.A.)
- 2.7. He had never been any different!
- 2.7.1. 1st great message of the Christian gospel is that **every one of us was born in sin**.
- 2.7.2. Thus never forget Christian your humble beginnings. We are just **"one blind beggar telling another blind beggar where to find bread"**.
- 2.7.3. Jesus left heaven to come to earth **precisely because** men & women were **lost, paralyzed, & helpless**.
- 2.8. **[2] THIS MAN WAS PARALYZED!** (4)
- 2.9. **Look at us** – Ashamed, looking down, embarrassed.
- 2.9.1. ☹️ 40 years. Same spot. Only a view of the bottom half of humanity, lost his childhood, the wonderment of youth, missed out on simple love of early manhood, familiar with pain, relying on everyone else.
- 2.9.2. **He never expected anything higher than a little almsgiving.**
- 2.10. Fallen man is Paralyzed in the matter of **knowing God**.
- 2.10.1. **Can you by searching find out God?** Job 11:7
- 2.10.2. Man has a total **inability** to conquer the **devil & temptation & sin**.
- 2.10.3. **Q: Is there anybody who has never sinned?**
- 2.10.4. **Q: Can you meet temptation & always defeat it?**
- 2.10.5. **Q: Have you ever done the same thing again, even though you knew it was wrong?**
- 2.10.6. **Q: Do you ever repeat an action that always leads to misery?**²

² Martyn Lloyd Jones; pg.215.

- 2.10.7. **Spiritual paralysis** is being in *the grip of sin* which **holds us down & cripples us!**
 2.10.7.1. Incurably crippled; Begging for mercy; Barred from worship!
- 2.11. **[3] THE WORLD COULDN'T HELP THIS MAN!**
- 2.12. All it can do is give us alms!
 2.12.1. The world is full of **activity**...it can try to help politically, socially, educationally, even help entertain us during our misery.
 2.12.2. It could give him a **little \$** to buy food; a **little drink** to numb the pain.
 2.12.3. It can give **temporary relief**, but it **can't** cure the man's lameness!
- 2.13. **[4] THE CHURCH CAN HELP THIS MAN!** (5)
- 2.14. **Expecting to receive something from them -**
 2.14.1. **But he was expecting the wrong thing.**
 2.14.1.1. The church **CAN &** does provide food, clothing, etc. But it has so much more to offer!
 2.14.2. **But, what I do have I give you!**
 2.14.2.1. The story is old of **Thomas Aquinas** walking with **the Pope** around the Vatican around the 12th century. As they walked the Pope pointed out the *gold, silver, & ornate buildings* & said, "You see, Thomas, the church can no longer say, *Silver & gold have I none!*" To which Thomas replied, "I do see, but I see something further. She also cannot say, **Rise up & walk!**"
 2.14.3. **But that's the Church's commission!** "But what I do have I give you; In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **rise up & walk.**"
 2.14.4. **Q:** Do you go to church to get temporary relief, to forget your troubles, to feel happier for a moment. [Oh, it can do that...but there's so much more!]
 2.14.5. **No**, the business of the Church is to **deal with the problem** of men & women, not to only give alms, but to **offer a cure for the paralysis!**
 2.14.5.1. This is the **unique message** of the church!
 2.14.5.2. It's what **differentiates** it from all other institutions.
 2.14.5.3. The church is **an expert on the soul!** 😊
 2.14.6. The church deals with man's central problems: They don't know **how to know God**; they don't know **how to live**; they don't know **how to die**.
- 2.15. **[5] THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER CAN HELP THIS MAN!** (6,7)
- 2.16. I think it's interesting Peter doesn't **stop to interview** the man, or to **prepare him emotionally** for what was about to happen. He just did it.
- 2.17. Faith's outstretched arm! –**Reach out to the individual!**
 2.17.1. **Pastor Eric** started our "**Reach Ministry**" – It has to do with reaching into our own church family **and** reaching out to our community.
 2.17.1.1. Eric says on our Web Site, "I believe the life that God has given us, is not really being fully lived, until we give ourselves away."

- 2.17.2. Faith in the name of Jesus releases **power** so that lives are **changed**.
- 2.17.3. As we reach out to the **individuals**, God will give us the opportunities for a **bigger harvest**. (Like in Jn.4:28. Women at well, then men of the city)
- 2.17.4. Amy Carmichael, "It's the **individual** touch that tells. He(Jesus) doesn't love in **mass** but in **ones**."
- 2.18. So we want to REACH out, but not just to be **social**, but **Missional!**
- 2.18.1. **Missional** is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the "**come to us**" invitations with a "**go to them**" life!
- 2.19. This verse is the heart of the message... "*Some things are more precious than silver & gold.*"
- 2.20. **What to give & How to give it!** – How to be a generous giver!
- 2.20.1. What Paul tells the Ephesian church members, is 1 of the reasons for **working?** "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have **something to share with anyone in need.**" (4:28)
- 2.21. Give as you're able – You as a Christian **always** have something to give!
- 2.21.1. Let us be quick to ask, "**What do I have to give to you!**"
- 2.21.2. **Christians we have:** Light, salt, kindness, goodness, prayer, a tender touch, compassion, a little time(Paul Amoy at beach)
- 2.21.3. Let's be **generous givers**.
- 2.22. **Give...in His Name!** (not yours)
- 2.22.1. To ask in **His Name** Means – "**to ask, or act, on His authority.**"
- 2.22.1.1. **Purpose? So He alone gets the glory!**
- 2.22.2. Not arrogantly, not self-importantly, not condescendingly.
- 2.22.2.1. **Be natural.** "By the way I believe God has given us this appointment today to let you know...there is a God in heaven who **loves you & cares very much** for you!"
- 2.23. **In the Name of Jesus** – Ch.'s 3,4 emphasizes **the name of Jesus**.
- 2.23.1. [3:6,13,16,20,26; 4:2,7,10,12,17-18]
- 2.24. He took him up by his right hand. {God desires to work through us!}
- 2.24.1. **Q: And how does He do that? – in the Name of Jesus Christ.**
- 2.24.1.1. **Christ? – Yes, The Messiah, the promised Deliverer, God in the flesh, proved by the Resurrection, proved by the descent of the Holy Spirit...that Jesus Christ!**
- 2.24.1.2. **He is the one, & all is found in Him!**
- 2.24.2. Peter acted as a **channel** between **man's helplessness & Divine power**.
- 2.24.2.1. **Q: Have you been the link between Christ & a person in need, as Peter was that day? (Be the Link! - Priest means bridge – Be the connection!)**

- 2.25. **[6] THE MAN FOUND HELP IMMEDIATELY!** (7)
- 2.25.1. The gospel doesn't tell you **start** doing this & that; **stop** doing this that; come to church; & gradually you'll be a Christian.
- 2.25.2. **No!** It's immediate, at once, w/o a seconds delay!
- 2.25.3. It's a picture of **Justification** by faith only!
- 2.25.4. The **invitation** is all of **Grace**; it is the **Gift** of God!
- 2.26. **[7] THE MAN WALKED, LEAPED, & PRAISED GOD!** (8-11)
- 2.27. Note how far this miracle extends. He didn't even have to teach himself to walk
- 2.27.1. **He's never walked before!!!** I picture a new born horse, awkward & clumsy. **Not this man!** Not just walking(keep balance) but leaping!
- 2.28. When God touches your life it **isn't** a *temporary relief* **but** a **cure**.
- 2.28.1. **It's a cure from?** guilt, your past, sins, helplessness,...it's absolute forgiveness. – **But then He doesn't stop there...**
- 2.28.2. **We need life!** – He gives us **life indeed** – **Life more abundantly!**
- 2.28.2.1. It's a new **birth**, new **life**, new **start**, new **beginning**, new **strength**, new **power**, new **might!**
- 2.28.3. Paralysis gone, its walking, leaping, praising God!
- 2.28.4. And this sets up Peters next sermon, "**and all the people ran together to them in the porch**" (11)
- 2.29. **Q: This morning are you paralyzed? Are you hopeless?**
- 2.29.1. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth...today, **Rise & Walk!**