

More Than He Bargained For

I. **Announce:**

- A. **Slide1 Richie:** Logo & new Bulletin.
- B. **Slide2 Missions Class:** starts next week.
- C. **Slide3 Service Opportunity:** A few helpers needed to join **preschool team** during **2nd service**. **And** a few teachers to join our **elem team** during **3rd service**.
- D. **Slide4 Sun Night of Prayer:** Gilbert will be leading.

II. **Slide5 Intro: *More Than You Bargained For***

- A. In the book of Acts we are not confined to *teaching*, **but** also **story**.
- B. Now we move from an *analyses* of the church **now in** ch.3 we see the church in **operation**.
 - 1. Here we view ***the gospel & church*** in **action**, as something ***living & real***.
- C. **Here is the church** with **relevance**. A church **contextualized**. A church that's **significant**. A church **important** to society.
- D. **Jesus** healed **27 individuals** in the Gospels. **Then**, **10 groups** of people [don't know the #]
 - 1. The question then comes up since He has left, ***do we have access to Jesus now that He's gone?*** To which **Acts** answers with **14 healings** in its book...**this is the 1st one**. [this is about **Jesus** healing **THROUGH** his disciples]
- E. Let's read about a man who got *More Than He Bargained For*. **(READ)**

III. **Slide6 THE MAN'S PLIGHT**

- A. (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. **Once again God orchestrating both these paths**.
 - 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?**
- B. **To ask alms** – Picture him laying his hat on the pavement...*another day*. [40 yrs 4:22]
 - 1. **Location, location, location** - Those who entered the temple would be **disposed to practice their piety** by generously giving alms to a lame beggar.

2. Almsgiving was one of the main ways to show kindness & thus was considered a major expression of a person's devotion to God.
- C. Slide7 This man laying at *the Beautiful Gate* of the Temple is a picture of humanity in a state of sin. (he couldn't enter) See Pic.
1. Unworthy for worship under *the old religion of Israel*, he now finds acceptance *in the name of Jesus*.
- D. Slide8a What was it like for this man? (use your 5 senses)
1. 40 years. Same spot. Only a view of the bottom-half of humanity. He lost his childhood, the wonderment of youth, missed out on the love of early manhood. Too familiar with pain. Having to rely on everyone else to do for you.
 2. I bet he wondered, *what's it like "inside" the temple courts?* What it felt like to feel **holy**. Feel **clean**. Feel some **dignity**.
- E. Expecting to receive something from them - but he never expected anything higher than a little almsgiving. He was expecting the wrong thing.
1. Not everyone can immediately identify their true need. Sometimes it feels like or looks like *I need this bill paid*, but maybe it's deeper, maybe the real need is *learning how to budget*. Or, learning *when to pay what bill*. Or, God leads you to *the end of your rope* to meet someone, who leads you right to **Jesus**.
 2. But this man received *More Than He Bargained For*. Hoping for *a few coins...* instead he received someone that would **stop & care**. On top of that a **physical healing**. On top of that a **spiritual healing** which was his greatest need.
 3. The church CAN & does provide *food, clothing, etc...* but, *it has so much more to offer*.
- F. Healing - disease is not always *causal* (this caused that). But the answer goes back to Gen.3, that Adam's sin brought about disease and death.
1. Sin entered the world, and everything is infected and affected, and nothing is the way God intended, and nothing is the way it should be.
 2. When the Bible asks, *who has known the mind of the Lord?* you're not supposed to raise your hand and say, *I do*. It's a rhetorical question.
 3. *Now we see in part, then we shall see in full*.

G. Slide8b The **healing** here is not the *main thing*. Healing is secondary. The **primary goal** is to glorify God.

H. What a great fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy, *the lame man will leap like a deer*.
Is.35:6

IV. Slide9a TOUCH SOMEONE

A. 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.

B. Also never be religiously too busy. They were on their way to prayer.

1. Never too busy for *individuals*...just like their Master showed them. And never too busy in ministry for *prayer*.

a) And their prayer times were very important to their culture. Ps.55:17 *Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.*

C. We see both *staring intently* at this man & waiting for him to do the same back.

1. I see deep human contact.

D. We see faith's outstretched arm, reaching out to touch the individual.

1. Slide9b Amy Carmichael, *It's the individual touch that tells. He/Jesus doesn't love in mass but in ones.*

E. So we want to reach out, but not just to be social, but Missional.

1. Slide9c **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*.

V. Slide10a GIVE AS YOU'RE ABLE

A. But, what I do have I give to you -

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. **David** didn't have a sword or spear **but** he picked up a rock & that rock did the trick. **Moses** didn't have a big boat like Noah did, **but** he picked up his walking stick and parted/crossed the Red Sea. **A little boy** had a lunch **and** ended up feeding a multitude of people with it. *What I do have I give to you.*

B. Slide10b The commission of the Church is...*what I do have, I give to you.*

C. Slide10c The business of the Church is to deal with *physical* problems, **but** also to offer a cure for *spiritual paralysis*.

1. This is the **unique message** of the church. It's what **differentiates** it from all other institutions. The church is an **expert** on the **soul**.

D. Slide10d The task of the Church is...to deal 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.*

E. Vss.6,7 are the heart of the message - *some things are more precious than silver & gold.*

F. We as Christians *always* have *something* to give.

1. Christians we have: *Light, salt, kindness, goodness, prayer, a tender touch, compassion, time to spend with a friend.* [a young woman was touched by what she heard about the Lord Fri at the memorial. She told her friend who told her mom. Who said, let's get together...she replied, you'd do that?]

2. Let us be quick to **ask**, *What do I have to give to you? What is the best way to give it to you (think dignity)? How can I be generous in this?*

VI. Slide11 **GIVE...IN HIS NAME** (not yours)

A. To ask *in His Name* Means – to ask, or act, on His authority.

1. Purpose? So **He alone** gets the **glory**.

2. Faith *in the name of Jesus* releases **power so that** lives are **changed**.

3. Note, ch.'s 3,4 will emphasize *in the name of Jesus*. [11 x's]

a) It becomes *the wider story*, that the healing power of Jesus *is still here*. *It's the power of Jesus's name that counts.*

VII. Slide12a **BE THE LINK**

- A. As Thomas Walker comments, *the power was Christ's, but the hand was Peter's*.
1. It was not a gesture of *unbelief*, but of *love*.
- B. *Peter took him up by his right hand*. God desires to work *through* us.
1. And it's how Peter saw Jesus do it w/Jarius' daughter, *but taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise."* Lk.8:54
 2. *Slide12b* Peter acted as *a channel/link* between *man's helplessness & Divine power*.
 3. Be the link between Christ & a person in need, *as Peter was that day*.
(Be the Link. Be their priest/bridge builder. Be the connection)

VIII. *Slide13a* **WALKING, LEAPING, & PRAISING GOD**

- A. *Note how far this miracle extends*. He didn't even have to teach himself to walk.
1. He's never walked before. I picture a newborn horse, awkward & clumsy.
Not this man. *Not* just walking (keep balance) *but leaping*.
- B. *Slide13b* This is a story about *a disabled man* who sat *outside* the temple, *that* was *turned into a worshiper* who *went all the way in*.

IX. **SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...**

- A. When God touches your life it isn't a *temporary relief*, but a *cure*.
1. *It's a cure from?* guilt, your past, sins, helplessness, hopelessness...*it's absolute forgiveness*. *But He doesn't even stop there...*
 2. He gives us life. Life indeed. Life more abundantly.
 - a) It's a new birth, new life, new start, new beginning, new strength, new power, new might.
- B. And this sets up Peter's next sermon, *all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's*. (11) *Stay Tuned*
- C. **Communion/Companion:** You could say *Jesus died* to become your *companion*.
1. Because the word **companion** literally means, *1 with whom bread is shared* (*com with + pani bread*).

2. He desires to share **His bread** with you, **a meal** with you, **fellowship** with you, **but 1st...His life** with you.
3. Child of God, Jesus has an invitation for us, *Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you **hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.*** Rev. 3:20

D. **Remind them:** Visitor Hub grab *a CM sticker.*

E. Most believers are convinced that it's **the pastors** responsibility to bring people into *the church*, as well as into *the kingdom of God*.¹

1. Nothing could be further from the truth. *The pastor/teachers responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.* (see Eph.4:11,12)
2. Get this, **sermons** are not God's primary method for reaching people. *People are His method for reaching people.* Charles Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life*
3. **What kind of people?** God is looking for *imperfect* men and women who have learned to walk in **moment-by-moment dependence** on **the Holy Spirit**. Christians who have come to terms with their inadequacy's, fears, and failures. Believers who have become discontent with *surviving* and have taken the time to investigate everything God has to offer in this life.
 - a) So it's not about the **preachers** and **sermons**. It is Christians whose **life-styles** are **empowered and directed** by **Jesus**.
 - b) *People are the key to reaching people.*

¹ From the Inspirational Study Bible.