

Getting More Than We Asked For

(Acts 3:1-10)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever asked for something and received something far better than what you asked for?
 2. This literally happened to a lame man in the Bible.
 3. If we stop and think, we'll also realize it's happened to us.
 4. Let us consider the account recorded in Acts 3:1-10, and make some application to our lives.

I. The Background

- A. There was a lame man who, as a daily practice, was placed at a gate leading to the temple.
- B. The purpose of this was so that he could beg and make a living by the charity of those who were coming to worship.
- C. This lame man asked the apostles, Peter and John for some alms.
- D. While Peter doesn't give him alms, he does give him a gift that forever changed his life - He healed him!

II. The Nature of the Gift

- A. The man was asking for money (Acts 3:3).
 1. As some view money (1 Timothy 6:10), they might think he couldn't ask for anything better.
 2. But this, of course, is very short-sighted.
- B. What this man received is not at all what he asked for, but what he needed most.
 1. Might God answer some of our prayers in a similar fashion?
 2. We might ask for riches, health, ease, etc. and God may give us poverty, sickness, and trials.
- C. This man received more than he asked for.
 1. All he wanted were a few alms, but instead, he received his health!
 2. Think of how precious the gift of eternal life is!
 - a. Would we not all be content with just avoiding hell?
 - b. Yet, he gives us abundant life (John 10:10)!

III. The Results of the Gift

- A. He Obeyed.
 1. (Acts 3:7-8).
 2. The way one becomes a disciple of Jesus is that he learns to obey (Matt. 28:19-20).
- B. He Praised God.
 1. (Acts 3:8).
 2. What else would you expect from a man who was given so much?
 3. (Psalm 107:2).

- Conclusion:
1. No matter what gifts you may receive, and how surprised you are to receive them, they pale in comparison to the gift God has given you.
 2. He has given you a gift that is far better than anything you could have ever desired or asked for.
 3. Will you accept his gift?