

LAME MAN WALKING

Acts 3:1-10

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever received a gift you didn't really want but it ended up being a gift that was better than you expected? Some of the greatest gifts we receive are gifts we never expected.

THE SAD CONDITION OF THE LAME MAN (vs. 1-3)

- A. This man was lame from birth.
 - 1. He was over 40 years old (4:22).
 - 2. He was an outcast; he was a man who was not seen as having much value in that society.
- B. This man had to rely on the generosity of others.
 - 1. He had to be carried daily to lie at the gate of the temple so he could beg for alms.
 - 2. Why the temple? Rabbi's taught three main pillars to the Jewish faith: Torah, Worship & Charity.
 - 3. This man was hoping for some charity, either through people's compassion or through their desire to be seen of men (Matt. 6:1-4).
- C. This man was not even willing to look at Peter and John when he asked them for alms.

THE SERVICE OF PETER AND JOHN (vs. 4-8)

- A. Peter gave the man what he had.
- B. Peter gave his attention to the lame man. He saw the man in need and did not walk away.
- C. Peter gave the man what he needed most. The man's greatest need was not physical, it was spiritual.
 - 1. Peter had to take the man by the hand and lift him up. He didn't have faith, but Peter sure did.
 - 2. This man was able to walk into the temple and worship and praise God.

THE SHOCK OF THE CROWD (vs. 9-10)

- A. The lame man leaped, walked and entered the temple praising God (Isa. 35:6).
- B. A changed person will get the attention of others (I Thess. 1:8; Psa. 66:16).
- C. This miracle gave Peter the opportunity to preach to the people.

LIFE LESSONS:

- A. Take notice of those hurting around you.
 - 1. How often do we miss people near us who are hurting?
 - 2. Jesus saw the crowds who were hurting (Matt. 9:35-38). We cannot have compassion on those we do not see.
- B. Give people what you have to give.
 - 1. Too often we think because we may not have money to give that we have nothing of value to offer.
 - 2. Dorcas was a woman full of good works and acts of charity who made tunics (Acts 9:36-39).
- C. The greatest gift we can give another person is the gift of Jesus.
 - 1. We like receiving gifts don't we? You could probably tell us about one of the great gifts you have received.
 - 2. For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23).