

Our Mission | Living a Life on Mission

Acts 3:1-16

Shane Freeman

September 27, 2020

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

—Acts 1:6-8

...As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.

—John 20:21b

I. Common Beliefs about Missions

1. You’ve got to have a specific call.
2. You’ve got to travel far.
3. You’ve got to quit your real job.

II. Rethinking Missions (Acts 1:8; 3:1-16)

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. 2And a man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. 3When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. 4But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” 5And he began to give

them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!" 7And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. 8With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 10and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

—Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.

—Acts 3:1

And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

—Acts 3:2

a. Our mission field is right in front of us and all around us every day.
(3:1-2)

When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. 4But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

—Acts 3:3-4

b. We often miss opportunities because we're not looking for them. (3:3-4)

But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

—Acts 3:4

And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"

—Acts 3:5-6

c. Jesus alone provides what the world so desperately needs. (3:5-8, 16)

But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"

—Acts 3:6

And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

—Acts 3:16

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

—Ephesians 2:1-5

III. Living Life on Mission

a. Be intentional to pray. (Jn. 15:5)

...apart from Me you can do nothing.

—John 15:5b

b. Be quick to look up.

c. Be bold to speak up. (1 Cor. 3:5-8)

Study Questions

1. As we conclude our series (Our Mission), think about all you heard throughout this series. Are there any specific truths that have personally challenged you? If so, share those with your group. Growing in your faith often involves taking one step at a time. What next steps might you need to take to either be more missional where you live, work, or play (or) to personally grow as a disciple of Jesus. Be specific. What might you need to share with your group about these next steps so they can pray for you, as well as encourage you?

2. Read Acts 4:1-14. Take some time to discuss what these verses teach us about Peter and John's ministry. Take notice of what those who observed them concluded. What does this teach us about the kinds of people God chooses to use? Also, what are some practical lessons we can apply to our own lives and ministry from what we learn here? Explain.

3. It was said in this week's message: Our mission field is right in front of us and all around us. When you hear (or read) that statement, what immediately comes to mind? Explain. To many, the very thought of seeing where we live, work, and play as our mission field is a foreign idea; however, it's a biblical mandate. (See Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). What specific challenges might you need to overcome to begin engaging those right in front of you with the Gospel? Think of your family. Co-workers. Neighbors. How can you be intentional to show them God's love and grace? Where might you start?

4. We were challenged this week to Live Life on Mission. The small steps we were encouraged to take were simply: Be intentional to pray | Be quick to look up | Be bold to speak up. Think through what each of these small steps could look like for you. Discuss these with your group and commit to pray for one another. Share where you plan to begin and ask for your group to hold you accountable.

As a Discipleship Group, discuss how you can serve as a group. Be sure to let Raina know what you decide to do.