

The Power of Collective Ministry

Acts 3:1-10

Introduction

In Acts chapter 3 we find a man who was lame from birth. For 40 years he had been unable to stand and had made a life as a beggar, dependent on others for his livelihood. The man sat outside of the temple hoping to be blessed. In this passage, the man asks Peter and John for money as they went into the temple to pray. While they didn't have money, they offered to give him what they had. The two disciples offered him a gift beyond his felt need and beyond what the man was asking for. They called on Jesus, seized him, and then helped the man up on his feet. In reaching out to the lame man, Peter and John empowered him to get up on his own. As a result of this collective ministry, the man moved from being a beggar outside God's temple (Acts 3:2) to becoming a witness to the power of God to heal and change lives (Acts 3:9-10).

The ministry that we have to one another is both spiritual and practical. We are supposed to call on the name of Jesus to access his power, but we are also supposed to reach out and help others – seizing them if need be to get them going in the right direction. Our ministry to others should also give rise to worship and the opportunity to witness. Just as the lame man's healing set the stage for the gospel and Peter's preaching, our ministry to people should open doors for renewed reverence and appreciation for God and new occasions to tell others about Him.

Getting Started

1. *What one point resonated with you from this morning's sermon?*
2. *The lame man thought money was the solution for his problems. Do you feel this way? Why?*
3. *Do you have a circle of people that can move you beyond your felt need and point to the work that God is doing in your life?*

Let's Get Personal

1. When is the last time you invited someone to come to church with you? Was there a need in their lives that you could identify? Were you able to practically empower them? Share your experience with your group.
2. What does it mean to "seize" someone in the context of the passage from this week's sermon? Are there people in your life that have permission to seize you and to empower you to move forward? Have you ever had to "seize" someone else to assist them? If so, how were you able to offer practical help?
3. Dr. Evans said, "Sometimes what we are asking God for is not necessarily what we need." *Did this statement resonate with you? If so, tell your group why this statement impacted you.*

Take the Next Step

1. *Read 1 Peter 4:9-11 aloud in your group. What are three gifts that are highlighted in this passage? Do any members of your group possess any of the gifts mentioned?*
2. *Read 1 Corinthians 12 in your personal study time this week. This passage highlights other very important spiritual gifts. Pray that God would help you to identify your spiritual gifts and the unique abilities that will benefit the body of Christ.*

Renew Your Mind

"...In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Acts 3:10
