

THIRD RATE REQUEST

TEXT: *Acts 3:2-3:*

² And a certain man, lame from his mother's womb, was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the Temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the Temple;

³ Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the Temple, asked an alms.

INTRODUCTION: This is the first recorded miracle accomplished through the Apostles, Peter and John. It occurred soon after they were filled with the Holy Spirit.



I. Peter and John were on their way to a Prayer Meeting. Prayer and Worship were very important in their lives.

- A. They didn't agree with all that went on in the temple.**
- B. They weren't popular with the leaders there.**
- C. They went to seek the Lord, worship Him, and be of service to others.**
- D. They went to fellowship with their fellow-Israelites.**

II. They knew they had Power to be a channel of Divine Help.



Acts 3:6: Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

- A. They could supply a much better thing than the man asked for.**
- B. God's people today need to know they have access to power and then share it!**

III. A Third Rate Request:

Suppose you had been the lame man at the gate

- A. Would you have asked, as he did, for just enough money for a meal or two, only to be hungry again?
- B. Would you have dared ask for longer range help, enabling you to be strengthened to work for your own livelihood and to even give to others alms they might need?
- C. Would you have even hoped they could give you first-hand information about provision for your eternal needs? A new, incorruptible body, and a place where sickness and want are unknown.
- D. This man didn't ask largely enough!

IV. Many still make this mistake:

People seek bread — material help — from the church as their chief aim.

- A. **Jesus knew many would follow Him for bread if He provided it; but would then miss His greater message. He tested Philip in:**

John 6:5-7:

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

⁶ And this He said to prove Him: for He Himself knew what He would do.

⁷ Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.



- B. Even providing jobs and educating people to make them able to work efficiently is not sufficient if the Church's influence stops there.
- C. Whatever their immediate needs are, the greatest need is for people to receive the Bread of Life to feed the soul — that part of man which shall live forever.

V. Peter and John show us the church in action

A. They had compassion on the individual in need.

1. They interrupted their schedule.
2. They didn't think of self interest.
3. They antagonized the elders and the scribes and the high priest.

B. They realized the man needed to be able to make a living.

The church must minister to the whole man, as Peter and John did, as Paul did — as Jesus did!

C. How they gave: In the Name of Jesus Christ.

They were able to give, because much had been given to them of spiritual power.

Matthew 10:1: And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Luke 10:19: Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

VI. Divine Provision

A. The lame man not only walked, but leaped immediately! God always provides for us above our power to ask or think.

Ephesians 3:20: Now unto Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.



B. We ask Him for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Do we believe we can be free from the power of sin NOW?

1. **What if the lame man had just sat there and said, “Yes, I believe some day I can walk”**
2. **When you are saved from the power of sin, receive that gift. You are free if He says so!**

C. We ask Him to supply our special need.

We believe, in sometimes vague hope, that He will supply this need.

1. **Can we take hold of the fact, that in truth, all we need is here for us now, for the taking?**
2. **Not all of our WANTS, but all of our deepest NEEDS.**

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Apostles didn't give the lame man 100 acres and a guaranteed income. They gave him ability to walk and opportunity to praise God and work for his own living.



VII. Lessons to Learn

**A. How to ask for God's best gifts for us:
Think in terms of eternal values.**

B. How to receive His best gifts

1. **Take what He sends**
2. **Use the gift.**
3. **Praise God**

C. How to be the Church in the World

1. **Go where the needs are.**

2. In the Name of Jesus, be the means of providing for the needs.
3. Minister, not for popularity or for any other reason except to glorify God and to cause men to praise Him.

VIII. Unbelief Ties God's hands.

Matthew 13:58: And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5: And He could there do no mighty work, save that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

A. Unbelief limits Him.

Psalms 78:41: Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

B. Unbelief will keep you out of heaven.

IX. God can do Anything.

A. *Ephesians 3:20: Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Matthew 19:26: But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

B. What do you need?

C. Expect Him to do it for you.

Mark 9:23: Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

X. Why be satisfied with second or third rate Requests?

A. Many are more concerned about their physical needs than the eternal.

- B. Many are more concerned about their financial needs than their spiritual.**
- C. Many with a low set of values are satisfied with the temporal rather than seeking that which is eternal. Don't sell out cheap and barter your soul for that which will take you down to a devil s hell or rob you of having Heaven on earth, to go to Heaven.**

CONCLUSION: What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:36: For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Jesus is calling us to put first things first in our priorities. He said:

Matthew 6:33: But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.



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