

Monday

Read Acts 3:1-10

Peter gives what he has. The man propped up on the wall of the gate would be perfectly happy to receive money. He is there to receive money. Money from people going into the temple is what he depends on to meet his daily needs. Peter and John don't have any money. Do they simply walk by? No, Peter and John stop. They don't ignore the man. They don't start walking faster. They stop. They look at him and they speak to him. The first thing they offer is their attention.

Who needs your attention? How can you be more present in each moment to give attention to the people near you? As you journey throughout your day, take stock of how giving your attention affects those who receive it.

Tuesday

Read Acts 3:1-10

Peter has the confidence to offer what he has to give. The core of what Peter has to give is Jesus Christ. In this moment, through Jesus, he can give healing. In other moments, he will give devotion, a wise word, the sacrifice of himself. What you have to give will likely change over the course of your lifetime. Don't get caught up on what you used to be able to do or what you can't do yet. Offer what you have. After all, that is what God is expecting from you – to offer what He has given to you. If you read this story, which you should be pretty familiar with after hearing/reading it at least three times, and what you come away with is that you have nothing to offer because you don't think you can provide instantaneous healing, you are sorely missing the point.

The healing brings wholeness. The Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ brought about in his person, in his teaching, in his miracles, and in his death, resurrection, and ascension is a kingdom that makes the broken whole and welcomes them into the presence of God. Jesus invites you to that calling, too!

Wednesday

Read 1 John 3:11-17, with attention on v. 17

A challenging message from Protestant Reformer and prominent pastor, Rudolf Gwalther:

Peter professes a promptness and readiness of goodwill to benefit and to do good when he says, "What I do have I give to you," which is as much as if he should say, "if I had money I would give it to you also. However, I will give you what I have." These words show an example of a willing mind, which we also ought to have in the exercise of benevolence. There are those who profess an earnest good will, but they say they know not what, nor how much they should give to the poor. The law of love and good will answer these questions, commanding us to love our neighbor as our self. Thus, those who do not inquire how much they should give but seek what their neighbor needs, and if they find that they have it, give it to their neighbor generously. Therefore, if they have money, they help the needy with money. If they have plenty of food, they distribute it out among the hungry. If they have clothing, they clothe those who they see go naked. And if they have none of these, at least they give their heart to their poor brothers and sisters, the goodwill by which they declare with friendly words, with counsel and comfort, by which they support and cheer up the poor body that is afflicted. So, following the example of Peter, they give whatever they have. Therefore, we gather that those who ask what and how much they should give to the poor are void of charity and have no affection for doing good.

Thursday

Read Acts 3:11-26

This is a wonderful passage, but we will not be having a sermon on it as it is quite similar to Acts 2:14-42. So today, I would encourage you to read this wonderful sermon of Peter deeply. It is the direct result of what the people see with the healed man that we have been discussing. Note that in v. 10, they are filled with wonder and amazed, but no one starts confessing the name of Jesus.

How do you put yourself under the words Peter speaks? After all, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. What is God revealing to you in this passage?

Friday

Please read and reflect on Matthew 7:13-14, John 11:25, John 14:6, and Acts 4:8-13 in preparation for Sunday worship.