



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

We walk by people everyday along our way to somewhere else. Whether it is traveling from our bedroom to the kitchen in our own home or passing someone on the street or in our car, we pass by those who have some need begging to be noticed or tended to. Some share their needs with words; others by the looks on their faces or by the way they fidget. Many, like the beggar in Acts 3, are long past hoping for what they really want in their lives: to be included as normal in their families and communities; to be recognized as persons with gifts of their own; to be seen beyond the pity or scorn with which people treat them. Many have lost hope for embracing a fresh future. They, like we, settle into the daily routine without much thought for the vibrancy that life can hold in the power of love.

Consider the Source Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John had already given their money and possessions away when they met the beggar on their way to daily prayer at the temple. I can see them with the tenderness of Christ, seeing through to the man's personhood as they heard the man call to them. Looking directly at him, Peter said, *"I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."* The story goes on to tell that the man rose up and walked.

Some of us have silver and gold to give to help others. All of us have God given gifts that are unleashed when in Christ we are freed from greed and self-concern, and give ourselves to others. When we begin to see as Jesus sees, we know we are all God's children; part of one big human family called to care for all of God's good creation as God so desired for us from the beginning.

The good work of ministry is before us. Let us give what we have. In the hands of Jesus Christ, that is more than enough.

— Rev. Dr. Beverly Jones, Associate Pastor

A Family Affair

We have been learning about how each person in our church contributes a small part of the bigger picture. Each church member may use their hands, words, feet, or head to contribute something from the heart.

Do you recall the Christmas song, *The Little Drummer Boy*? He was a poor boy who had no physical gift to bring the newborn king. However, the drummer boy thought of a gift from his heart, something he could give of himself. He played baby Jesus a song on his drum.

What God given skills or gifts do you have to offer from your heart? You may know or you may still be learning what it is you can share with the world. You always have God's love to share.

Together read Acts 3:1-10 out loud. Do you know anyone who needs to hear that God loves them? As a family, make a list of things you could do to share the love of God. Perhaps you share your Bible story from Sunday School. Perhaps you write a card to share that God loves them. Is there someone new to sit with at lunch?

Dear God, Thank you for all the gifts you have given us. Each of us is a small part within our church home and community. When we share of ourselves, we are sharing your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

— Tammy Parks, Elementary Coordinator

Monday: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 10: 25-37

I love the often quoted passage from Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) that is a kind of summary of these two passages. "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

- Write this down and try memorizing it. It is a great reminder of the trust God has in us to do what God calls us to do.

Tuesday: Acts 3:4-5; Numbers 6:22-26

They say that the eyes are the window to the soul. I have had the experience of being understood by another and of finding a deep and wordless connection by looking in another's eyes. It is a great comfort to know God's face and God's eyes shine on us, understand us and long to bless us.

- When and with whom do you find it easy or difficult to look into another's eyes?
- When is such a gaze most comfortable to you; bringing you a sense of peace?

Wednesday: Acts 3:6

Consider what gifts you do have (not the one's you don't have). Don't be modest. God gave them to you!

- How do you think you can put them to use in helping others in Jesus name?

Thursday: Acts 3:7-8

What a joy it is to see someone succeed, blossom and become who they want to be! When we have reached out our hands to someone else, literally or figuratively, the strength they find through our hands, becomes our joy also. Indeed, it is the joy of the Kingdom of God.

- When have you experienced that kind of joy? Thank God for those precious moments God grants.

Friday: Acts 3:9-10

It may amaze us when people are set free to grow or change because of what God, is doing in their lives. Such was the response of people who saw the man in this story who sat so often by the Beautiful Gate and was set free for the fullness of life. We may feel wonder and amazement when we see such change in people we know. On the other hand, we might feel a tinge of cynicism or distrust about it if we cannot make sense of such a change in someone. We may even feel jealousy.

- When such moments come, take some time to reflect on or pray about your connection with the person who is growing and changing and your own response.