

What We Have We Give Away

Sermon in a Sentence: God gives us the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might give them to others.

Sermon Purpose: That believers will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and commit themselves to minister to others.

Text: Acts 3:1-10

Introduction

1. Today many so-called Pentecostals have perverted the gospel and the power of the Spirit and turned them into selfish means of getting personal blessing from God.
2. Their motto is *"Such as God gives, we keep for ourselves!"*
3. Peter and John had a different motto: "Such as we have we give to you."
4. Let's look at this story and see what lessons we can learn.

I. THE MAN HAD A DESPARATE NEED.

- A. He was desparate (vv. 1-2).
 1. He needed phylical healing.
 - a. He had been crippled from birth.
 - b. As a result he was reduced to begging from others.
 2. He also needed spiritual healing.
 - a. He needed to know Christ's forgiveness.
 - b. This was his greatest need.
- B. Like this man, people around us are in desparate need.
 1. They are hurting, sick, and dying.
 - a. They are helpless to save themselves.
 - b. They need a miracle from God.
 2. Even more, they are lost and desparately need Christ.
 - a. Remember, people's greatest need is spiritual.
 - b. We must never forget what it means to be eternally lost. (Expound on this...)
- C. The man reached out to the disciples for help (v. 3).
 1. The world is reaching out to us for help.

II. THE DISCIPLES HAD THE ANSWER TO THE MAN'S NEED.

- A. Peter and John knew that they had the answer.
 1. They told the man to look at them (vv. 3-4).
 2. We, too, have the answer to the world's need.
- B. More specifically, Peter and John had two things:

1. First, they had the message of Christ.
 - a. “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...”
 - b. Christ is the answer, and the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16).
 - c. Like Peter, we must boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ (ref. vv. 11-26).
2. Next, they had the power of the Spirit.
 - a. Peter’s words (“such as I have”) was a reference to his experience at Pentecost (ref. Acts 2:1-4).
 - b. Peter had received the power of the Spirit (Ac. 1:8).
 - c. You can receive that same power today!
3. Then, like the disciples, we must learn to walk, witness, and minister Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit

III. WHAT THEY HAD RECEIVED, THEY GAVE AWAY.

- A. They became God’s channels of blessing and life.
 1. Their focus was on others.
 2. They understood why God had given to them.
- B. What God has given to us He has given that we might give it away!
 1. The gospel is for giving; we must proclaim it.
 2. The power of the Holy Spirit is for sharing; we must minister to others in the power of the Spirit.

IV. GOD WORKED A MIGHTY MIRACLE.

- A. God responded to their obedient faith by working a mighty miracle (vv. 7-10).
 1. The man was healed in two ways: both physically and spiritually.
 2. His life was changed forever.
- B. The miracle also resulted in many other lives being changed (ref. vv. 11-26 and 4:4)
 1. God wants to use you to change the lives of others.
 2. He wants to give to you so you can give to them.

Conclusion and Altar Call

1. Come now and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Then go out and give to others what you have been given.
3. And believe that God will work miracles in their lives!