



**Title: Giving More Than Gold**

*Text: Acts 3:1–10*

## CONTEXT |

The Holy Spirit is moving through the church as it explodes with growth in Jerusalem. We saw in the description of the church activities in 2:43 that God was working miracles through the hands of the apostles. In our text we see the type of miracles being performed as Peter and John heal a crippled beggar on the way into the temple for prayer. It seems the apostles were not planning to heal this man. They encountered him on their way to the temple to worship. The man was strategically placed at the entrance of the temple because this gave him the best opportunity to receive alms. People on their way to worship ought to be in their least selfish state.

## MAIN IDEA |

Trust God to work miraculously as we minister to the needs of people and point them to Jesus.

## KEY VERSES |

<sup>6</sup> But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

Acts 3:6 ESV

## DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- What are your first thoughts when you see someone begging for money?
- How is this lame beggar a good representation of a person before and after encountering Jesus?
- In what ways do Peter and John set an example for us to follow today?
- Meeting physical needs, like Peter and John did, is an important part of the ministry of the church. It is possible to neglect this type of ministry, but do you think it is possible to give it too much attention?

## EXPLANATION |

The apostles could have done several things in response to this beggar. They could have ignored him. Wasn't he trying to take advantage of the kindness of God's people? They could have tossed him a coin or two that they wouldn't miss and he would have left them alone. Or, they could give this man what he truly needs since they have it to share. That's what they did. Peter admitted that they didn't have money, but he immediately healed him in the name of Jesus. This lame beggar immediately became a follower of Jesus and the gospel was magnified through him.

Besides marveling at the miracle God performed, we can learn an important lesson for our lives as Jesus' witnesses. Ministering to people's needs helps advance the gospel. We should show compassion for people by helping and serving them as we tell them about Jesus. God will work powerfully to touch and transform lives through our simple trust and obedience.