



Partnership  
With God  
Acts 3:1-11

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## Partnership With God

- **Romans 10:13 NLT**, 13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Joel 2:32)

## Partnership With God

- **Romans 10:14-15 NLT**, 14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” (Isaiah 52:7)
  - Paul is talking about missionaries, right?

## Partnership With God

- The driving force behind presenting the Gospel of Jesus or serving in Jesus' name is the Holy Spirit
  - He uses your salvation experience
  - He uses Biblical knowledge you have developed
  - He uses your life experiences
  - But the power is the Holy Spirit in your life
- This is the reason the disciples needed to wait for Pentecost

## Partnership With God

- **Acts 1:4-5 NLT**, 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
- **Acts 1:8 NLT**, 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

## Partnership With God

- It is the Holy Spirit that leads, guides, and sends
- **Acts 16:6-8 NLT**, 6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.
- What you see here is a partnership between God and His people to spread the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

## Partnership With God

- The sent ones are not just Apostles, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers
- Every Born-Again Child of God
- And it happens as we live our lives with an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and a sense of expectation

## Scripture

- **Acts 3:1-11 NLT**, 1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. 2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

## Scripture

- **Acts 3:1-11 NLT**, 4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. 6 But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”

## Scripture

- **Acts 3:1-11 NLT**, 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.
- This was his first time being able to enter the temple

## Scripture

- **Acts 3:1-11 NLT**, 9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

## Partnership With God

- One question commonly asked by job Interviewers is, “What gets you out of bed in the mornings?”, What are they asking?
  - What motivates you when thinking about today?
  - What excites you when beginning your day?
  - Henry David Thoreau, “live deeply and suck all the marrow out of life” instead of letting life suck all the marrow out of you
  - What moves you?

## Partnership With God

- Jesus promised us an abundant life of purpose, joy, and togetherness
- We were not saved just for the here after
- We were saved for today, filled with purpose today, filled with joy today
- We are to live like dayworkers, waiting for the Lord to drive up and take us into the harvest field
- We might be the sent one today

## **This story begins as just an ordinary routine day**

- A man crippled for over 40 years was carried and placed at the temple gate called Beautiful
  - Seniority at the gate after 40 years
  - He was there to beg for coins from those going into the temple to worship God
  - He began looking at people to see who would be more likely to give him something
  - This was prime area for begging

## This story begins as just an ordinary routine day

- Can you hear this man say, “My life has no purpose, meaning, usefulness.”
  - He was probably being judged by all those who walked by
  - **John 9:1 NIV**, 1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

## **This story begins as just an ordinary routine day**

- Religious Jews were going into the temple to pray at the third hour of prayer, about 3:00 PM
  - Some coming to offer sacrifices for sin
  - Some bringing in their temple tax owed
  - Some coming to pray
  - Those coming in through the gate Beautiful walked past this crippled man, most didn't even see him as they walked by

## **This story begins as just an ordinary routine day**

- Some were motivated to do one last act of kindness to get on God's good side just before their prayer
- Peter and John being good Jews came to the temple at 3:00 to pray
  - This is how they were raised and felt comfortable to them
  - This was just an ordinary routine day for them

## **This story begins as just an ordinary routine day**

- How many times had they walked past this crippled man without even seeing him?
- Did they ever say a prayer for him?

## **This story begins as just an ordinary routine day**

- We hear stories of God moving mightily when disasters strike
  - Times of war, Natural disasters, Times of tragedy
- But what about times of ordinary, routine
  - Don't give up the ordinary, routine day to the mundane, just going through the motions day
  - David said, "This is the day that the Lord has made, and I will rejoice and be glad in it."

## **Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?**

- He has probably walked past this man hundreds of times over the years and never stopped – Why this day?
  - Maybe Peter just wasn't distracted like every other day and actually saw this man and asked God to ease his burden
  - Maybe they just had a Bible study on helping the poor and needy before coming to the temple
  - Maybe someone received Christ and told Peter about their family member at the temple gate begging

## **Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?**

- I think on this day, God willed this man be made whole for His glory and He used Peter as the sent one
  - God did not send the Apostle Peter, Evangelist Peter, or Miracle Worker Peter but the simple man Peter
  - Peter did not give the man a sermon on how to be saved, but rather showed him what it meant physically

## Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?

- Peter did not heal this man, **Acts 4:12 NIV**, “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”
- It wasn't the crippled man's faith – He didn't try to get up when commanded by Peter
- We don't even see where the man asked for this healing
- So, what was happening?
- Be real careful about putting a box around God or a formula on God's work since He works in mysterious ways

## Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?

- In an instant Peter knew what God was going to do
- He was filled with knowledge by the Holy Spirit
  - **John 16:13-14 NLT**, When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

## Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?

- In an instant Peter was filled with faith necessary to do what God sent him to do
  - **Romans 12:3 AMP**, 3 For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to everyone of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service].

## Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?

- In an instant Peter was filled with faith necessary to do what God sent him to do
  - **1st Corinthians 12:9 AMP**, 9 to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit

## **Why did Peter notice this crippled man on this day?**

- Not only did God alert Peter to what He was going to do, but gave him faith necessary to carry out His will
  - Does God still do this today?
  - Could He use me today?
  - Can He use you today?
  - Woman serving in a strange way

## **Peter was blessed because he noticed something unusual in the routine, ordinary and was willing to be God's sent**

- It was unusual for Peter to notice this crippled man as he did, something drew his attention to him
  - It was not a normal attention; something was different about it
  - Peter didn't ignore it, talk himself out of it, wasn't too busy
  - He simply said, "What is it Lord, you wish me to do?"

**Peter was blessed because he noticed something unusual in the routine, ordinary and was willing to be God's sent**

- Instruct the man to get up and walk then take his hand and help him up
- Remember, God is giving Peter the faith to not just believe but perform
- Stop beating yourself up for not noticing
- God is God and if He wants you to notice something nothing will stop Him

## **Peter was blessed because he noticed something unusual in the routine, ordinary and was willing to be God's sent**

- Stop putting God in a box in your life and be open when you notice something different in the routine, ordinary
- You may be the sent one
- If you notice and hear nothing from God on what He desires you to do, it may be God training your spiritual eyes to notice before He sends you
- He will give you the faith necessary to be the sent one if we do not limit his lordship in our lives

## Partners With God

- It was just an ordinary, routine day for Philip
- **Acts 8:21-26 NLT**, 26 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

## Partners With God

- It was just an ordinary, routine day for Philip
- **Acts 8:21-26 NLT**, 29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” 30 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.”

## Partners With God

- Don't leave these events just in history
- I believe God still desires to touch people's lives with the Gospel of Jesus and He still uses simple people like Philip who are open to being the sent one from Him
- Does God do this every day of our life?
  - Probably not, but it can be any day of your life
  - But just the possibility of God using us this way should give your life a sense of purpose, meaning, and excitement in the ordinary, everyday of life



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