

# DELAYED BLESSINGS!

## ACTS 3:1-11



# The Method of God's Blessing

- Peter asked the disabled man to fix his eyes on them
- Peter said “I don't have any literal money to contribute, but what I do have I will give. In Jesus' name rise up and walk.”
- God changed his physical and spiritual life, which changed his financial potential--Psalms 1

# God's Method of Blessing is not man's method!

- A mother's son had become rebellious
- He turned to alcohol and drugs
- Everyday she would pray for the blessing of a son who would turn his life around and live right
- One night, the young man got behind the wheels of a car, in his "drugged" condition, and crashed the automobile
- He had to be airlifted to the hospital

- After spending days in intensive care he was released, only to be arrested and jailed for drug possession and DUI.
- While in jail someone visited and talked to him about Christ
- According to the story, he subsequently surrendered his life to Christ after leaving jail and never took another drink and stayed away from alcohol

# Observations

- His mother never would have chosen for her son to crash his automobile and go to ICU
- She never would have chosen for her son to spend time in jail
- She never would have chosen to spend sleepless nights agonizing over her son's fate
- But God had a plan that ended in a transformed life that brought glory to His name

# True Story

- Patient was married to a member of the Lord's church
- She prayed for his conversion for a number of years but he was prideful and rebellious (he visited but that was all)
- I performed his physical exam every year and one year noticed that his PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) had risen sharply
- I called him in and discussed the need for a prostate biopsy to test for prostate cancer

# True Story

- He had the biopsy and it was positive for cancer
- The Sunday before his major operation he was baptized into Christ
- He tells me now that he knew the truth already, but he had to be brought down from his prideful attitude by Jesus to submit to Him
- Now he worships and serves faithfully in the Lord's church

# Observations

- His wife did not want him to have prostate cancer or go through a major operation
- His wife had prayed for years for a husband to worship and serve the Lord's church with her
- But God had a plan that she would never have come up with to give her the blessing she coveted and the glory that should only be His




# Observations of the Text

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- If the disabled man had his way, he would have never been born with his condition, or he would have been healed a lot earlier
- But God had a plan that would literally amaze those who were present
- As a result, this man was used and blessed by God in a mighty way

# Observations

- You may feel that you may not have chosen your present circumstance
- You may feel that you know what God should do ,  
“Give me my blessing now”!
- You may feel that the blessing you need really makes sense
- But God may have another plan to handle your request



*All we can really do  
is trust God to do what  
is best!*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

**A Blessing - God working behind the scenes on  
our behalf**

# #2 The Motivation for This Huge Blessing

- Peter took this man up by the right hand
- Immediately his lower extremities got stronger
- He leaped up and walked around, and walked into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God
- A blessing that seemed impossible happened to this man, that changed his life forever



***Maybe someone in this  
audience needs a huge life  
changing blessing!***



The Blessing You Need is Not  
About You!

**God's blessing affected the man in a  
positive way, but God's  
MOTIVATION for it was what  
happened afterwards!**

# This Miracle Brought Glory to God!

- Everyone present at the temple that day knew who this man was
- Some had probably given him some money from time to time
- Some had probably avoided him or ignored him
- **But as he began to walk and leap and praise God, “they were filled with wonder and amazement!”**

# God Used This Man's Blessing for Others to be Blessed

- A crowd of people gathered around “Solomon’s porch,” a location at the temple
- Peter then saw the event as an opportunity to preach the gospel (death, burial and resurrection of Christ verses 13-15)
- He showed them that the power that God used to raise Christ from the dead is the same power that has changed this man’s life
- At least 5,000 people obeyed the gospel (Acts 4:4) after that one blessing





# **God used the lame man's blessing to reach the audience He needed!**

**Can God work through your blessing to give others a  
blessing too?**

***That's His motivation!***

***(Will you tell His story?)***

# #3 The Message in God's Blessing

- Peter said “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”
- The disabled man wanted change, but he got “CHANGE.”
- Sometimes the blessing we desire is not what we really need.

# The Message of This Blessing

A message of power---Jesus' power is bigger than any problem He had (and ours)

A message of perception---No matter what everybody thought about this man, Jesus knew him and cared for him (and us)


A message of presence---When this blessing was given to this man; Jesus had already ascended into heaven, but His power was still on the scene (as it is with us)

# Observations

- We want a better career. Jesus wants better character –Philippians 2:5
- We want to be successful. Jesus wants us to be more spiritual –Matthew 6:33
- We want Jesus to lift US up. Jesus wants us to lift HIM up –John 12:32
- We want a Godly man. Jesus wants a mature woman– Hebrews 6:1
- We want less sickness. Jesus wants more service –Romans:12:1

# We are not the first to have to deal with delayed blessings

- The children of Israel waited 400 years to be delivered from bondage
- They wandered 40 more years to get to the promised land
- Abraham waited 25 years before Isaac was born (he was 75 when he left Haran)
- Joseph waited 14 years before things turned around for him
- When Jairus was waiting for his daughter to be healed, his blessing was delayed by a hemophiliac woman
- When Mary and Martha asked Jesus to come and heal Lazarus, their blessing was delayed



**Sometimes Jesus may allow  
more brokenness in our  
lives so that we can see  
who He really is!**

(A blessing given prematurely could ruin us)

# The Plan of Salvation

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Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38