

Series: Acts

Sermon: Acts 3:1-26

Passage: 3:1-26

Illustration: We miss the trees for the forest.

Need: Every encounter we face is an opportunity to engage people for the purpose of representing Jesus to them.

I. Encounter (3:1-3)

- 3:00 PM at likely the eastern gate into the main temple courts (Gentile & women's areas).
- A beggar crippled from birth (over 40 years old, 4:22) carried and left daily to beg.

II. Engage (3:4-10)

- Peter was not able to give him money but did not look away.
- Jesus had conferred on the apostles the ability to heal (Luke 9:1).
- "In the name of Jesus" on the basis of His authority and power/ability.
- Peter reached out and took him by the hand to help him to his feet.

III. Represent (3:11-26)

- Peter intentionally connected this miracle directly to Jesus of Nazareth, God's Messiah!
- Peter presented Jesus again - attested by God, crucified by men, raised & glorified by God, and willing to save those who confess Him as Lord.

IV. Two lessons:

- (1) From the eyes of Peter & John:
 - Take advantage of every encounter as an opportunity to represent Jesus.
 - Be willing to be delayed, distracted, or disturbed.
 - Value everyone, even those dismissed by others.
 - Engage the persona with compassion (as though you have a responsibility to them).
 - Do what you can/should.
 - Invest with confidence in God's power.
 - Be defined & motivated by the gospel.
- (2) From the eyes of the beggar:
 - In your times of difficulty and need, what God wants to do for you is often far more than what you want for yourself.
 - What He will do is always a way of faith in who He is.