

“God’s Got Something *Better* For You”

Based on Acts 3:1-8 (NIV)

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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Acts 3:1-3

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon.

2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

† **The Jews observed 3 times of prayer each day — morning (9:00 a.m.), afternoon (3:00 p.m.) and evening (sunset).**

† **Giving money was considered praiseworthy in the Jewish religion.**

Acts 3:4-5

4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

† **The reason Peter wanted the man to look at them was to get his full attention.**

† **Peter and John are two apostles who Jesus commissioned to preach the gospel to all the earth.**

Acts 3:6-8

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

† **In the Jewish mind set, the name of an individual stood for all that a person was and could do.**

† **God often does not give me what I want. He always gives me something better.**

† **I am a beggar in some way because I have crippled areas in my life.**

† **I need to look to God's face, not to God's hand.**

† **It is okay to ask God for what I want, but don't be surprised when God gives me what I really need.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have I asked for help from someone?
From God?

† How have I gotten to love God more through an agony in my life?

† Do I look for a handout from God or do I look at God's face to see what God is offering me?

† What do I *want* from God? What does God say I *need*?