

## Acts 3:1-10

### Interruptions or Divine Appointments?

#### Intro: How do you deal with Life's interruptions?

A)When you have something to do or somewhere to be? Something to accomplish....

B)And something or someone interrupts your plans - how do you deal with that? -

Happens more often than we would like doesn't it?

C)Me- I used to get really frustrated, it could ruin my whole day! - I would get perplexed, anxious

D)Left me wondering: How am I ever going to accomplish what I am supposed to get done -now?

E)What about you? How do you deal with life's interruptions?

Here is what I am learning: Big idea for today: Life's interruptions can lead to divine appointments that can turn into life altering moments!

#### PRAY - TEXT

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup> So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them— walking, leaping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup> Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

V.1 Gives us the setting for this miracle: Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

A)Here we find the apostles continuing in the normal routine of Judaism – Temple 3 times a day to pray

B)Why? Christianity was not meant to replace Judaism it was meant to fulfill it!

1)The apostles realized that their new faith and the old discipline could walk hand in hand

C)There were aspects of Judaism that would serve them well in their following of Jesus

D)So they continued with the same disciplines in going to the temple and prayer – new meaning

1)Religion was replaced by relationship – Practice with a person.

For the devout Jew there were three special hours of prayer—9 a.m., 12 noon or midday and 3 p.m.

A)3pm or the 9<sup>th</sup> hour was considered a special hour – Hour of the Lord's death.

B)He cried – It is finished – Veil was torn in two!  
1)Open access into the Holy of Holies

C)New understanding of Prayer - entering into the very presence of God -

They no longer needed a human priest to mediate

A)One mediator between God and man - the Man Christ Jesus -

B)Come boldly into the throne room of God - receive Grace and mercy in our time of need.

C)So they were on their way to do something that was very important to them

1)No doubt there were other apostles and others in the early church that were waiting for them?

That is when THIS happened: "And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;"

A)Now this man picked a great place to beg for several reasons.

B)It was called the Beautiful gate for a reason – It was very pretty –

C)Josephus tells us “the gate was fifty cubits high and forty cubits wide, was overlaid with Corinthian bronze,

1)and was such a work of art that it “far exceeded in value those plated with silver set in gold.”

D)Because it was a beautiful setting – many people entered thru that gate – most popular.

**Begging at the entrance to the temple – was also smart because – Jewish religious system**

A)People sought to earn God’s favor by their performance

B)What better way to solicit alms than from pp going to meet with God in hopes of being accepted by him

1) “God did you see what I gave that guy out there!”

C)Our text tells us that this man was placed there every single day - You could say he was a Fixture

1)**there everyday** - for many he was No longer noticed

**D)No doubt Peter and John had passed by him before - but today was going to be different**

E)The man was there begging for alms - when he noticed Peter and John

**<sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”**

**Notice: Peter didn’t look away – that is what we do sometimes when we encounter a person in need – we look away.**

A)**V.4 Fixing their eyes on the man** – NLT looking intently. NIV Looked straight – ESV directed his gaze

B)Principle #1 Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments when: **We don’t ignore the needs of others.**

C)**Before we can be used to meet a need we have to see the need.**

1)Can’t ignore the needs around us – Pray: His eyes and His heart.

**So Peter says: LOOK AT US**

A)Why did Peter want eye contact?

**B)Picture this man – in his 40’s and for yrs maybe 20 plus years he has been dropped off every day – gate**

C)Maybe first went – desperation – looked at pp

1)Help me – please

**But after yrs of rejection: Yrs of being ignored**

A)Yrs of feeling shame – this is the only way he can exist

B)Yrs of feeling like a pain to the friends who have to bring him there every day – and then take him home

**C)I would think this guy was dejected – head down**

1)it was easier not to look – because then he didn’t see the pp ignoring him

D)Didn’t see them turn their head the other way.

1)He was a broken man in more ways than one.

**So that might have been part of the reason why Peter wanted eye contact – the guy was looking down**

A)But I think it was more than that -

B)**Peter says LOOK AT US! - Do we look like guys with money – {Pulls pockets out of his pants**

C)Text supports that – **Peter says Silver and gold we don’t have.**

1)Look at us – We don’t possess anything in and of ourselves – to help you.

**Application for us: We live in a world of broken people**

A)The Lord has been impressing on my heart a lot lately - just how broken people are in this world.

B) All around us - every day - surrounded by broken people.

1) Broken by abuse/ addiction/ Divorce/ Bankruptcy / betrayal

C) Someone has let them down. - A parent, a friend, a spouse, a pastor, church, an employer, the GOVT.

D) People all around us are carrying the pain of their brokenness - their lack of trust, their hurt

E) Looking for coping mechanisms to deal with their pain, their brokenness and lack of trust -

1) **SOME HIDE IT REALLY WELL.**

**LOOK AT US! - take a minute Look around -**

A) What do we have in and of ourselves to help this hurting world? - NOT MUCH IF ANYTHING

B) We don't have enough money -

1) Not smart enough - talented enough

C) We don't have anything of any substance to offer to a hurting world

D) When I look at the needs in this world - NC - Vista - I get overwhelmed - **we don't have the goods**

**Notice v.6 again - "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have"**

A) PETER did have something - He wasn't empty-

B) neither are we - We have something - infinite worth/ Infinite power/

**"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."**

C) Guys we have something - really SOMEONE that the world needs the most - WE HAVE JESUS.

D) Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments when: **We don't ignore the needs of others.**

**Principle #2 Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments**

when: **We respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

A) What made this day different is not only that Peter saw the need in front of him

B) But he also responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit

C) **YOU WANT TO HELP BROKEN PEOPLE: It starts with seeing the need -**

**Often times the Holy Spirit is the one bringing it to your attention**

A) Then he stirs your heart to reach out to act -

B) to respond in love and grace to the need that is being placed in front of you.

C) The interruption ONLY becomes a DIVINE appointment - when you respond to the HS

**A few years ago when we used to do a service on Saturday nights -**

A) It was after one of the services - my wife and I closed down the building

B) We were leaving the parking Lot - **this exit** - my wife noticed a young couple walking down the street - turned into the parking lot

C) I pulled out - got in the left hand turn lane head home - **My wife who is way more sensitive to the Holy Spirit than I am**

1) Said did you see that YOUNG couple? - Yes! She said it looks like they are walking up to the church.

D) I think we should turn around and see what they need.

1) Now I knew she is right - but I am hungry and tired.

E) **My first response is Really? - Yes really - I think the Lord wants us to see if they need help - 1) throwing in the Lord...☺**

**So I turn around: - Sure enough they were in a bad way - needed help.**

A) So we got them dinner and talked with for a while.

B) Found out they were homeless but - trying to get to Nebraska - family - job - place to stay.

1) So we decided to put them up in a hotel. -

C) I told them that someone would pick them up for church tomorrow - talk afterwards.

1) See about getting bus tickets.....

**They come to church - get saved. - Altar call...**

A) We put them on a bus - headed to Nebraska - family

B) About 8 months later I get a letter - thank you -

C) Established - Job - in church and expecting their first child. -

1) Amazing!!! - Think I almost missed that - tired and hungry

**Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments when: We don't ignore the needs of others.**

**Principle #2** Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments when: **We respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

**#3** Life interruptions become Divine Appointments that lead to life altering moments when: **We REALIZE that we have what the world needs.**

**"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." V.7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, **and immediately** his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God.**

**IMMEDIATELY** (the Greek says, "*instantly*") **everything came together.**

A) Remember Luke — is a Doctor — He uses — some medical terms here. —

B) When he says his feet and ankle bones received strength,

C) He's using medical terminology for the joints snapping into place,

1) the tendons and the muscles instantly being strengthened.

D) In that moment — strength to walk-walking and leaping and praising God

**This story is a great reminder to us that we have something to offer to a broken and crippled world**

**A) JESUS - GOSPEL**

**B) May not have money — resources — but we have Jesus and we should share with same boldness**

C) Peter believed Jesus could heal - **WE NEED TO BELIEVE THAT TOO**

1) AND We need to believe that Jesus can transform

**D) Silver and gold I don't have but what I do have I give to you — JESUS**

E) So this interruption in the life of Peter and John becomes a Divine appointment that led to a life altering moment

**Consider for a moment WHO was altered by what happened? **THE LAME MAN WAS ALTERED****

A) His life was dramatically changed

B) He goes from being on the outskirts of the temple everyday - the outskirts of life with God

C) To becoming a worshipper of God.

D) NOTE: It is true that not everyone that gets prayed for gets healed physically

**But for everyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior — Everyone who surrenders**

A) There is an immediate Change that occurs

**B) Immediate Cleansing — Sins forgiven/ forgotten.**

C) Immediate Change in destiny — Hell to heaven

1) Immediate change in standing with God — Enemy to friend — Stranger to family - **Darkness to light —**

**D) 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."**

E) AND That Change is immediate:

**Peter was no doubt altered**

A) He would learn what was possible when he responded to the Holy Spirit and stepped out in faith

B) I BELIEVE Peter at this moment was filled with the gift of faith. -

C) John is like – I can't believe you just grabbed that guy and pulled him up

1) Peter – I know it was crazy – but I had this overwhelming faith – I knew Jesus was ... heal him

I remember the story Pastor Chuck – healed a guy in a wheel chair - Family rolled him up – prayer

A) Name of Jesus rise and walk

B) Found out later the family – only wanted prayer because their dad had a cold

1) PC – God gave him the gift of faith

C) A couple of weeks later – Another family person in a wheel chair – Chuck just prayed

1) The Lord didn't give him the gift of faith { Peter didn't go around .....

D) Like any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit it takes stepping out in faith

**PETER WAS ALTERED**

A) He would learn from this what could happen when he responded in faith to the promptings of the Holy Spirit!

B) You want to be used radically by God - learn to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit

1) to help someone - to share with someone

C) To Call someone - just thinking about you - you ok?

1) The more you respond the more that you will be used.

D) This event would become a Catalyst for the boldness Peter and John show in Ch.4 -

1) beaten and threatened... stop talking .....

Can't stop talking about Jesus obey God....

E) Jesus Changed our lives - changed this man's life - we have to share it

F) So Peter was Altered - the lame man was altered

The crowd was ALSO altered

**<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup> Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

Note 3 things about how this altered the crowd

A) #1 V.10 Filled with Wonder = awe and Reverence – presence of God was near.

B) #2 V.10 Filled with Amazement = ecstatic –

1) it literally means to stand outside yourself –

C) they saw God working and they were blown away by it. They were floored

D) Ch.4:21 They glorified God because of what he had done

V.11 Greatly Amazed – actually astounded BLOWN AWAY!

A) This miracle would lead to another sermon -

B) see next week - and another 2,000 people end up getting saved - 4:4 - the church is growing -  
1) 3,000 - 5,000 people in a matter of weeks

So we have learned today: Life's interruptions can lead to divine appointments that can turn into life altering moments!

A) That can happen in our lives this week if we can simply realize we have what the world needs. - JESUS

B) If we can just slow down enough to see the needs of others -

1) God might be putting a need in front of us because he wants to use us.

C) When it happens stop and pray - ask the Lord is this a Divine appointment?

1) Remember they passed by this guy before - in fact Jesus himself probably passed by this man too.

D) But today was the day - stop and pray -

1) Respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

That is when the Christian life gets exciting friends.

A) God uses you to alter the life of someone else - your life gets altered in the process -

**B)the world around you - your sphere is filled with wonder!**

**AMEN!!**

**As we close today: I believe there is someone here today at least one**

**A)Your life has been interrupted this week - something stopped you in your tracks - bad news - tragedy - betrayal - hurt -**

**B)That is how you ended up here today - **this message was for you.****

**C)Today is your Divine Appointment - God sees you - God loves you -**

1)Today he wants to meet with you - begin relationship with you.

**D)Jesus died for you - heal the pain - brokenness - take away sin**

1)Relationship with God - Today is the day of Salvation - Divine appointment

**E)Change your destiny- change your purpose  
Opportunity in just a moment**

**Others Prodigals**

**A)Something happened - interrupted your life - brought you to this moment - back with God**