

SUMMER • AUGUST 31, 2020

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families

## Becoming Beautiful

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*Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 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 of them that entered into the temple; who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.*

ACTS 3:1-8

*He hath made every thing beautiful in his time...ECCLESIASTES 3:11*

God's timing is perfect. He knows the end from the beginning. He sees the big picture, and He always comes through at just the right time. There's an old song that says "He may not come when you want Him, but He'll be there right on time. He's an on-time God, yes He is!" Unfortunately, we often don't understand God's timing, and this can produce frustration, disappointment, and doubt if we stop trusting Him. It's easy to get ahead of God, impatiently wishing for the storm to be over, the deliverance to come, or the miracle to happen. But, as Ecclesiastes tells us, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

The Greek word translated "beautiful" in Acts chapter three is *horaios*. It means "belonging to the right hour or season." It also connotes a state of maturity, and a bloom, such as when a flower blossoms, reaching its full expression of what it was designed to be. It is no accident that the lame man in Acts chapter three was sitting outside of the Beautiful Gate. Though he had been brought there for years, and had, in all probability, witnessed Jesus' miracles, he remained lame. He surely would have welcomed the miraculous in his life, but the timing wasn't right. When the apostles met him that fateful day, his story was not going to be one of a long list of the miracles during the life of Jesus, but his was to be the first recorded miracle of the New Testament Church, which helped usher in a great revival and harvest of souls. The Lord performed a beautiful work in his life, in the proper timing, when the conditions were in perfect bloom, and not only was his life changed, but it also had maximum impact for the kingdom of God.

## Application

Are you going through something from which you wish that the Lord would deliver you? Are you, with faith and patience, waiting for the promises of God? Do you find yourself wishing He would have shown up already? Waiting is difficult, but praying for a premature deliverance aborts what God is ultimately trying to perform in your life. Jesus Christ was manifest on the earth as our Messiah, not when the people of Israel thought they needed Him most, but when the fullness of time was come (Galatians 4:4), i.e., when the timing was perfect. Keep waiting on the Lord. When the fullness of your time comes, He will manifest Himself in your situation and bring about all of His good pleasure.

## Discussion

How do you keep faith while waiting for God's timing to be fulfilled in your life?

What struggles do you face during your seasons of waiting?

Read Isaiah 40:28-31. How do these Scriptures aid in the waiting process?

## Prayer Focus

Pray that God's perfect will is done, in His perfect timing.

Pray that we learn everything God is trying to teach us while we're waiting for His promises.

Pray for grace to enable us to walk faithfully in the promise when it does come.