

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Faithful to the Opportunity

With Aaron Richert

July 9, 2023



Acts 3:1-12 (NLT) Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. ⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" ⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. ¹² **Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd.**

- **Followers of Jesus have opportunities all the time to offer people what they need most.**

Acts 3:16, 19-20 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.... ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰ Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.

- **How aware are we of the "gospel opportunities" that God is giving us?**

Ephesians 5:15-17 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.** ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Big Idea: Let's be faithful to the opportunities God gives us.

- **By... Praying for opportunities.**
- **Watching for them.**
- **Taking them.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Faithful to the Opportunity
#1 of 1 - July 9, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 121. Where are you looking for strength and help? In what ways have you experienced God as your guardian? How were you able to apply this message?
- 2) Read Acts 3:1-12. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we follow Christ?
- 5) Read Acts 3:16, 19-20. What do people need most?
- 6) Read Ephesians 5:15-17. What challenge are we given in this passage? How does this relate to Acts 3:1-12 and how do we see Peter being faithful to this truth?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? What opportunities is God giving you right now to help people experience what they need most? What action step is God asking you to take today?



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