

## Overly Needy People

Pastor Gregg Brenes

### Restoration: Working with people to lead them back to their God-given potential

Now a man who was lame 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. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Acts 3:2-5

### Three prayers of a restorer...

- **God, help me give people what they truly need and not just what they want.** Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. Acts 3:6-7

- Do for people what they can't do for themselves.
- Don't do for people what they won't do for themselves.

- **God, help me lead people to Jesus and not to me.** (Acts 3:11-16)  
...Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ... <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. Acts 3:11-13, 16

- Do not put yourself in someone's life as their "functional savior."

- **God, help me stay out of your way, and not continually rescue people from their consequences.** (Acts 3:19)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Gal 6:7

- Set healthy boundaries and choose *not* to continually rescue people from the consequences of their choices.

### Could it be me? (Acts 4:12)

- **God, help me remember that I'm also in need, and You are the only Savior.** But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay. Psalm 70:5

## Let's Connect

- Dogs or cats. Which are overly needy? Plead your case.

## Let's Talk About It

We all have people in our lives who require a little more time, patience, and attention. God uses people to meet needs and restore people to their God-given potential. Greater problems happen when we unintentionally function as a *savior* in a needy relationship. When we do, we're taking a role only Jesus can fulfill. To truly help overly needy people, seek restoration instead of just giving relief. Remember that you, too, are in desperate need of the One True Savior.

1 John 4:10, 11; Acts 3:1-19; Acts 4:12; Galatians 6:7-8; Psalm 70:5

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Acts 3:1-10. Peter and John gave the man what he needed, not what he asked for. What might have happened to the crippled man if Peter and John had given him the money he had asked for? Why is a better first response to overly needy people *restoration* instead of *relief*?
- Read Acts 3:11-16, 19 & Acts 4:12. Why is there salvation in no one other than Jesus? Are you in the role of a "functional savior" in any of your relationships? If so, how can you lead them to trust Jesus rather than yourself?
- Read Galatians 6:7-8. Pastor Gregg said that sometimes the most loving thing you can do for an overly needy person is to set boundaries and stop rescuing them. Is there an overly needy relationship in your life that needs stronger boundaries? What step can you take to set healthy boundaries and not continually rescue them from consequences? How can this group support you?
- Read Psalm 70:5. In which area of your life are you most in need? Where do you need God's restoration in your life? How can you invite God to meet you there?

## Take a Step

- What do you need to change to better love people who have needs? What actions will you take to trust God with your needs?

## Here's My Prayer

- God, the truth is that we are all overly needy for You, Your grace, Your presence, and Your love. Teach me to live depending on You and not someone else. Help me take the right steps to heal any hurting relationships or people in my life. I pray this in Jesus'. Amen.