**“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you”**

*Acts 3:6*

**Introduction**

1. **Acts 3:1-10** – Peter and John heal a lame man at the gate called beautiful.
	1. **(v. 5)** – expected to receive money.
	2. **(v. 6)** – Peter offers much more.
	3. **(vv. 7-10)** – he is healed, and is overjoyed, praising God.
2. What did Peter give him?
	1. Certainly, healing, thus, the ability to walk **(vv. 7-8).**
	2. More importantly, evidence of the authority in their teaching to offer salvation:
		1. **(v. 6)** – ***“in the name of”*** – by the authority.
			1. **(v. 11)** – not the ability of Peter and John.
			2. **(v. 16)** – Jesus’ power/authority caused this man to be healed.
			3. Lame man – **(vv. 8-9)** – praising God – connected healing to God, and by the words of Peter, connected Jesus with God. (Peter would further expound and identify the Jesus of whom he spoke.)
			4. NOTE: **Mark 16:15-18** – miracles would validate the message of the gospel preached.
		2. (**vv. 10-11**) – The miracle gathered a crowd.
			1. Peter preached Jesus to them – they murdered Him, but God glorified Him by raising Him from the dead.
			2. What is shown to be offered in Jesus (words having been validated already by the miracle):
				1. (**v. 19**) – blotted out sins, and times of refreshing. (**5:31** – granted repentance and forgiveness)
				2. (**v. 25**) – the blessing foretold to Abraham.
				3. (**v. 26**) – sending of Jesus (before in His ministry, and now in the word) to bless them with the turning away from iniquities.
3. The lame man was looking for money to relieve him in some way in his destitute state but received something greater.
	1. He was blessed with complete healing (not the treatment of symptoms, but a complete cure) – by power only possessed by deity.
	2. He, along with the crowd, was blessed with the knowledge of Christ in the gospel where eternal blessings were offered. (Greater than money, and even greater than physical healing.)
4. Peter and John maintained the perspective the Lord sought for them to have – focus on bringing spiritual blessings to men through the preaching of Jesus.
5. The lame man came to a knowledge of something far greater than silver and gold – not simply physical healing, but especially the knowledge of Jesus and salvation from sin. (The people were afforded the same realization.)
6. Those in the world would do well to learn from this instance – the work of the Lord (through the apostles here, and the church in general) is not concerned with silver and gold (**Acts 3:6**), or even physical healing, but the spiritual healing which all men need!
7. The Social Gospel, and the Gospel of Health and Wealth
8. Many in the world approach scripture, and what are ultimately spiritual matters, with the mind set on physical improvement. (Like those who sought Jesus – **John 6:26-27**)
9. The Social Gospel
	1. A view of the gospel as that which is geared toward and promises societal improvement.
	2. Uses religion to bring about “the establishment and maintenance of sound and fair social conditions, so that there should be no oppression, no injustice, but a square deal for everybody.” (Gladden, Washington. “The Nation and the Kingdom.” *The Social Gospel in America*. Ed. Robert T. Handy. New York: Oxford, 1966.)
	3. This is how society in general views the Bible, and why churches (denominations) are often involved in social works, and political projects.
10. The Gospel of Health and Wealth
	1. A view of the gospel as that which is geared toward making a person’s life on earth prosperous in health and physical possessions.
	2. “Give your life to Jesus and you will be showered with physical gifts from on high.” – The lie that is told.
11. These overlapping approaches to the gospel completely miss the focus of its message, and pervert it for selfish gain rather than godliness.
12. These approaches to the gospel also pervert the biblical view of the church, and the reason for her institution by Christ.
	1. Thus, many seek a church to become a member of for social and physical reasons.
	2. Thus, many jump from church to church seeking some kind of financial assistance.
13. The Work of the Church
14. Evangelism
	1. The preaching of the good news to the lost in an effort to turn them to the obedience of the gospel.
	2. According to the Lord’s commission – **Matthew 28:18-20**
	3. Carried out by the church **– Acts 8:4**
15. Edification
	1. The building up of the body of Christ (church) with the word of God.
	2. For the work of the ministry (which includes evangelism) – **Ephesians 4:11-16**
	3. Something the church continued steadfastly in – **Acts 2:42**
16. Benevolence (limited)
	1. This part of the church’s work is sorely misunderstood by the world, and even with some brethren.
	2. Part of the reason for the contribution – **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**
		1. Note: ***“FOR THE SAINTS”***
		2. **Romans 15:25-26** – Paul speaking of this collection – ***“POOR AMONG THE SAINTS”***
	3. Not one example in the New Testament of the collection of the saints (contribution/church treasury) being given to those who are not Christians.
	4. Limitation emphasized:
		1. **1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8-9** – honoring widows.
			1. Honor – financial component – especially contextually.
				1. Similarly to **5:17-18** – ***“honor”*** is explained by ***“wages”***
				2. ***“provide for his own” (v. 8)***
				3. (**v. 9)** – taken into the number (of those continually receiving benevolence)
			2. ***“really widows”*** – shows there is a limit.
		2. **1 Timothy 5:16** – let not the church be burdened – i.e. from her priority in spiritual work (evangelism/edification) and relieving those who truly meet the qualifications given.
	5. Limitation possibly shown with Peter and the lame man:
		1. **Acts 3:6** – silver and gold he did not have.
		2. What about **Acts 2:44-45**?
			1. Laid at apostles’ feet – **Acts 4:34-35**
			2. However, it wasn’t the apostles’ money to do with it what they wanted.
			3. Same limitation – to the needy saints.
		3. Perhaps Peter did have money – that from the collection before – but it was not for him to give out to the public, and his work was greater than that anyway.
	6. Conclusion – while part of the work of the church is benevolence, such is not its primary work, and that work is limited to needy saints anyway.
		1. Not the work of the church to improve financial situation, health, etc.
		2. THE CHURCH DOES NOT EXIST TO ASSIST IN EARTHLY MATTERS, BUT TO FACILITATE THE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS OF GOD IN CHRIST AND GLORIFY HIM IN SUCH.
17. What We Do Have to Give You
18. The church is involved with God in extending the greatest invitation – **Revelation 22:17**
	1. Bride – church – bride of Christ.
	2. Spirit – HS in the revealed word of God.
	3. Water of life – salvation.
	4. The church does not have the authority to offer “silver and gold” (money, and other physical things), but her work is to offer that which is exceedingly more valuable.
19. The Truth
	1. Many people search for truth, and the church has what they seek.
	2. **1 Timothy 3:14-16** – the pillar and ground of the truth.
	3. The truth in Jesus – **John 14:6**
20. Freedom from Sin
	1. The greatest problem for all men is sin – **Romans 3:23; 6:23**
	2. After having that problem exposed, one can be directed toward freedom.
	3. **John 8:31-36** – freedom from sin by following the truth.
21. The Way to a Relationship with God
	1. The darkness of sin separates man from God – **1 John 1:5; Isaiah 59:2**
	2. Jesus shows us the way to the Father – **John 14:1-6 (1 John 1:7)**
22. Purpose of Life
	1. Part of the truth offered is the purpose of each person’s life – **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**
	2. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – Jesus’ death can give us new life, and such is purposed toward serving Him. (**Ephesians 2:10**) (That which is most fulfilling in every way – concluding in eternal salvation.)
23. Hope of an Eternal Reward
	1. To be in Christ is to be an heir – **Galatians 3:26-29**
	2. This inheritance is unlike any other **– 1 Peter 1:3-5**
	3. This is far greater than silver and gold, or any other thing one might seek.

**Conclusion**

1. Let us all remember what is illustrated in Peter’s interaction with the lame man.
	1. There is something far greater than silver and gold.
	2. There is something far greater than even physical health.
	3. Eternal life is that which we should seek.
2. The Lord has instituted His church for the greatest work there is – continuing His spiritual work on earth.
3. Let us never forget the value of this work by tainting it with temporal matters.
4. Do you want what is offered you in the gospel?