

The Church that ACTS out!

The Church Comes Alive!

“How Can We Help?”

Listen Up

- Three Stories to Get us Going:
 - The Secret Admirer who never told
 - The Gas Station with Yellow bags
 - The Thoughts and Prayers discussion with an antagonistic preacher
- Which is better, which is worse:
 - The Church that will not SAY, but will DO
 - The Church that will not DO, but will SAY
- The Unnecessary Separation of Proclaiming the Gospel and Social Outreach and Justice
 - Stereotypes of the Social Outreach Church and the Evangelistic Soul Saving Church
 - Works Centered Gospel
 - Workless Gospel
 - Would you accept a one sided \$1 bill?
- Choosing one or the other because we think we can...(hint...we can't!)
- The Call to Live out the Gospel, to Love others through Jesus, and to Share Jesus with others as a witness.

Dig into the Word (Acts 3:1-10)

- (3:1) The Inconvenience of Ministry
 - Interruptions or opportunities
- (3:2-3) The Lame Beggar
 - The physical toll, the emotional toll, and the spiritual toll
 - When your life circumstances prevent you from seeing a greater need because of the immediate need.
- (3:4-5) Gaze into the Face of Grace
 - The look of Avoidance to the kids at the Front Door of Walmart
 - The dignity of eye contact
 - “see me”
- (3:6-8) “Walking and Talking and Praising God”
 - Lack of resources is not an excuse for a lack of ministry
 - Not ashamed to say the Name.
- (3:9-10) “Now that I have your attention...”
 - Transformed life drew attention
 - Drunk absent father to a devoted daddy
 - Peter’s opportunity to proclaim Christ once more

So What?

- We Must Live it, and We Must Share it
- Opportunities to help others are all around us, be observant and ready
- We Have more to Offer than material goods
- Outreach opens the door to Evangelism, but outreach is not simply a Public Relations device.
 - The “Bait and hook” good deed.
- World doesn’t care what you know until the know you care.
- If we truly care, then we can’t withhold the greatest treasure, the Gospel of Jesus.
 - The uncomfortable cure, or the comforting demise.

Final Thought

- Why do we do what we do?
- Pastor Ralph and the man who kicked him out of his house

Discuss Around the Table

- What stood out to you the most about today’s sermon? How would you summarize the message?
- Are you more of a doer, where you like to show Jesus by being an example of His love, or are you more of a Sayer, where you like to tell others the good news of Jesus? Why?
- Why is Witnessing and Outreach both necessary in living out our mission? Study the Gospel and see how Jesus did both. Were they connected? Did he ignore one at the cost of the other?
- What are some opportunities to help that you see around your everyday life? Have you taken advantage of them?
- When have you seen a church use a “good deed” as a bait to simply get that person to come to church?
- What lessons from the healing of this man can you see for our church’s ministry?
- Read Acts 4 to see the result of Peter and John healing this man.

“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.” “...As for me, I desire this privilege from the Lord, that never may I have any privilege from man, except to do reverence to all, and to convert the world by obedience to the Holy Rule rather by example than by word.”

- St. Francis of Assisi

“The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.”

-C. S. Lewis