

# “YOU ASKED FOR IT”

Acts 3:1-10

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## INTRODUCTION

Chapter 2:43 had already mentioned that great signs and wonders were occurring through the apostles; this particular one is pointed out because of the resulting sermon and persecution.

In this passage we see three “groups” and their attitudes:

- The Apostles—Peter and John who have *hearts of compassion for those in need*.
- The Lame man—who realizes his inability and asks for help.
- The People—who observe God’s mighty power and are amazed.

The lame man asked for help and received more than he requested. **God knows exactly what we need even before we ask Him—go to Him and receive the help you need—Salvation, physical well-being, victory over temptation, power for godly living.**

### I. PETER AND JOHN—*Hearts of Compassion for lost souls and sick bodies.*

- A. Prayer—the ninth hour (3 PM) Notice that they pay attention to the lame man—they fixed their gaze on him (v. 4).
- B. Poverty—they had no “silver or gold” to give to this man or to anyone.
- C. Power (6b-7).
  1. In the name of Jesus Christ—that is in the power or authority of the person who has this name. **Christ had risen from the dead and has all power and authority!**
  2. The Nazarene—indicates His humble origin—He was a “nobody” and even a “criminal” and now the lame man must put faith in Him in order to rise and walk!
  3. “Walk”—when he could not even stand!
  4. Took him by the hand and raised him up—but that action could not make his body well and his legs strong! (7).

### II. THE LAME MAN—*Recognition of his need*

- A. His Helpless Condition (2-3, 5)
  - He had been lame from birth.
  - Others regularly carried him and put him in his place for begging (2).
  - The “Beautiful Gate” is of uncertain identification—likely the Nicanor gate—leading from the Court of the Gentiles into the Women’s Court—where the offering box was found. Many who came through this gate had money in their possession.
  - He begged—asked for alms—mercy displayed in an act of compassion.

- To him, Peter and John looked just like any other “customers.” So he began asking them for money as beggars are wont to do.
- Beggars often do not make eye contact with those from whom they solicit. Peter demands that he look at them (4).
- The beggar began to focus on these men—expecting to receive a financial gift (5).

#### B. His Healing (7b-8)

- His “feet and his ankles were strengthened.” Doctor Luke takes note of something that a layman would not likely think of—words used only here in the NT. **A doctor would know that it ordinarily would take months of therapy in order to strengthen and make useful such feet and ankles.**
- Having already been pulled to an upright position, he took a “leap of joy.”
- He stood upright. He began to walk.
- He entered into the temple with them.

#### C. His Happiness (8b, 9)

- Walking; Leaping for joy; Praising God  
He openly expressed his gratitude, and to the proper person—not so much to Peter and John, but to **God. This man asked for money, but got far more than he asked.**

### III. THE PEOPLE—Noticing God’s Power (9, 10)

Compare 2:43—their reverential awe; 2:47a—their favorable attitude toward the believers; 2:47—the many who had become saved. Here, more of the people of Jerusalem respond to the “Christians”

#### A. Observation

- They “saw him walking”—amazing! They heard him praising God (9)
- They took note of the fact that this man had been regularly sitting and begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple for years!

#### B. Amazement (10) “Wonder and amazement”

- The second word has the idea of “standing out of one’s mind”—it is the root of our word “ecstasy”
- This is the miracle as a “wonder”
- It all centered about what had happened to this man.

### CONCLUSION

As a church, which do we want: *The Power of Worldly wealth* or *The Power of God*?

As needy people,

- Let us humbly approach God; he will give us more than we ask!
- Do you need salvation?
- Do you need victory?
- Do you need power.

**Ask Him; His name is powerful**