

The Lame Beggar Walks

Acts 3:1-22

July 31st, 2016

What kind of “situation” do you find yourself in today?

1) Our “situations” are always an opportunity for God to work in our life.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple. **Acts 3:2**

God is always working. Though we may not feel, see or experience it right away, God is always at work.

God uses all of our “situations” to draw us in to a closer relationship with Him and for us to experience Him in a more intimate way.

What if our “situations” don't work out like we want?

“Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not,
This is not our home
It's not our home

'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near

What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise.” ~ **Laura Story**

Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. **Job 42:1-2**

2) Our “situations” are always an opportunity for God to use them for His purposes.

Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?” **Acts 3:11-12**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28**

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ. **Philippians 1:12-13**

“The important thing is not that we are comfortable, but that the name of the Lord is glorified through the preaching of the gospel.” ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

3) How we respond to God’s work (situations) in our life often show not only what we believe, but shows others what we believe.

When God works in our life we need to make it known.

How have you seen God work?

Thank Him and let him know. Let Him know and let others know, in doing so we are sharing our “testimony” and it’s hard to argue against a testimony.

4) Our situations may be used to bring us and others to repentance.

Verse 13-20 show us how God’s plan unfolds

Crime given, evidence explained, sin laid out, repentance offered (again)

Verses 17-19 clearly would have told the people then and us today that God continually goes after us. Our scripture today is proof that those hearing the message were given another chance though we don’t know if we all will. We have heard the truth and now we must respond one way or another.

“There must be conviction before a sinner can experience conversion. Unless a patient is convinced that he is sick, he will never accept the diagnosis or take the treatment. Peter turned the temple into a courtroom and laid all the evidence out for everybody to see. How could two ordinary fishermen perform such a great miracle unless God was with them? Nobody would dare deny the miracle because the beggar stood there before them all in “perfect soundness” (Acts 3:16; 4:14). To accept the miracle would have been to admit that Jesus Christ is indeed the living Son of God and that His name has power...It is easy to see in this man an illustration of what salvation is like. He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God. Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants (Rom. 5:12–21). The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him (Luke 7:36–50). He was “outside the temple,” and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be. The man was healed wholly by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8–9), and the healing was immediate (Acts 3:7). He gave evidence of what God had done by “walking, and leaping, and praising God” (v. 8) and by publicly identifying himself with the apostles, both in the temple (v. 11) and in their arrest (4:14).” ~ Warren Wiersbe

5) Repentance is the beginning and a continuous process in the Believer’s life.

Repentance- to change our minds about the sin and the Savior and then action comes from such repentance. This is an about face.

Verse 19 speaks not just of a future salvation, but one of now!

Prayer Focus:

- What “situation” am I in today? How might God want to use this in my life?
- To realize God may want to use my “situation” for His glory in many ways.
- To repent as a non-believer, to trust Christ.
- To repent as a Believer, to continually walk with Christ.