Don't Gatekeep Your Breakthrough

Acts 3:1-16 | Acts Series

Big idea: You can only give what you've been given.

Opening *[Sit by the gate. Read vv. 1-10.]*

- A man carried to the same spot every day, near God's house but never inside. A broken man at a Beautiful gate.
- Some of us live there: surrounded by good things, still sitting.

1. Sitting at the gate, or walking into the house? *(vv. 1-2, 8)*

- Peter and John were *going up*. He was *carried* and *laid*. Same destination, different posture.
- Carried for a season is fine. God never meant you to be carried forever. One touch from Jesus and he's inside, leaping.
- **"You can be at church every week and never get past the gate."**

2. A beggar, or a giver? *(vv. 3-5)*

- Beggar faith only asks: What am I getting? Givers have been with Jesus first (v. 1; 4:13).
- "Look at us." Lift your eyes. He asked for coins and got legs.
- **"Beggars watch hands. Givers watch for people."**

3. What man can produce, or what only God can produce? *(vv. 6-7)*

- "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you." A coin keeps him at the gate. Jesus gets him off it.
- Lights, sound, and programs never made a lame man walk. The power was God's; the hand was Peter's.
- **"What man produces can help you cope. What God produces can make you whole."**

4. Taking God's glory, or reflecting it? *(vv. 11-16)*

- The crowd stares. Peter points every eye to Jesus (v. 12). The moon only shines facing the sun.
- Glory given to Jesus led to about five thousand believers (4:4).
- **"The moment you take the credit, you lose the power."**

Close and Response *[Walk back to the gate.]*

- Nobody is too far gone, and God wants your hand to lift someone else. *What I have, I give you.*
- **At the gate:** salvation. **Been carried:** stand and walk. **Ready to give:** take a next step.
- Pray: "Get us off the mat. Lift our eyes. Keep Your glory on Your name." [Walk through the gate.]