**Acts 3:1-11 – The First Apostolic Miracle**

**1. Recap of the “First Church” passage (2:42-47)**

**SLIDE 1**

**“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.**

**46So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”**

**SLIDE 2**

**Non-Normative Aspects of The Acts 2 Church**

 A. Non-normative (what doesn’t apply to us in our context)

 1. Wonders and signs done through the Apostles

 2. common-ism vs. communism (What’s mine is yours vs. what’s yours is mine)

 3. Meeting daily in the temple

**SLIDE 3**

 B. Normative (what does apply to us in our context) or “Six Continuing Practices in the New Testament Church”

 1. Apostle’s Doctrine (didache) – Teaching

 “Teach one another” (Colossians 3:16)

 2. Fellowship (koinonia) – Community/joint participation

 “Greet (receive joyfully) one another” (Romans 16:16)

 3. Breaking of Bread – eating together, but with a worshipful element in Keeping with the Lord’s Supper (Agape Feasts) – Communion (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)

 “Show hospitality to one another” (1 Peter 4:9)

 4. Prayer – Corporate Prayer

 “Pray for one another” (James 5:16)

 5. In one Accord (hah-MOTH-oo-mah-DON) – To go forward in unison, as in a musical piece, many notes in harmony making music. This takes effort.

 “Live in harmony with one another” (Romans 12:16)

 6. Praising God – lifting up His name together – Corporate Worship

 “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19)

**2. Introduction – Today’s Passage is Acts 3:1-10**

Have you ever thought about how miraculously strange it is to watch God’s plan unfold in your life?

Examples:

Meeting Julie when she was a freshman...I could not have imagined her being the grandmother to my grandchildren

Talking to Denzil while he sat at his desk in the church office...I could not have imagined falling asleep at it one day.

Driving by the two banks on Dell Range that I helped build in 1981...I could not have imagined driving by there routinely forty years later

Little did I know then...

We think we know what we need.

We tend to think that our idea of the timing of things should happen, and we try to make things happen in our time.

We fail to see God’s hand in things, so we get frustrated.

We think the things that happen in life are random. Or that God is reacting to our choices. Psalm 139:16

Today in Acts 3:1-11 we will see that:

God gives us exactly what we need when we need it according to His direction and will.

We will see this fact unfold in the passage.

**SLIDE 4**

**“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour.* 2And 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; 3who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” 5So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.” 11Now 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.**

**Four observations from the text regarding “God’s Program.”**

**SLIDE 5**

1. God’s Punctuality (vs. 1-4) – There is an appointed time for all things.

2. God’s Provision (vs. 5-7) – God’s provision is not always what we expect or want from Him.

3. God’s Plan (vs. 8-9) – We must have a right response to God’s plan.

4. God’s Purpose (vs. 10-11) – God’s purpose is to reconcile all to Himself.

As we observe and reflect on what happened in this passage, we can see how circumstances and God’s sovereign intervention work together to accomplish His divine objective.

Can we see this in our own lives?

Can we trust Him?

Again,

**SLIDE 6**

“God gives us exactly what we need when we need it according to His direction and will.”

Ultimately, God’s purpose is to bring us back home to Himself.

We are separated by our sin and rebellion.

He is always working on our behalf, no matter how things may seem.

There is a reason Jesus did not heal the lame man at the gate of Solomon’s Porch, though He had undoubtedly passed Him many times.

There is a reason the lame man’s prayers went unanswered for so many years.

Take courage.

The Lord is always working on your behalf, as He is for all those He has called.