

February 17, 2018

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

“But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!” Acts 3:6 (NASB)

Give What You've Got

There are times when I try to give what I haven't got. More time, more skill, more money. People have specific needs I want to meet. But the unfortunate truth is that I cannot give what I haven't got. The right response in situations like that is found in Peter's response in Acts 3, which led to God showing up in a powerful way.

Peter and John went to the temple to pray around 3 pm. As they went through the gate a beggar called out, asking them to wait; to take a moment to give him some money. Peter had no money, but he asked the beggar to watch, to pay attention, to look at them, so that he could give God's command to the beggar to walk. The lame beggar got up and walked, and three then went into the temple to worship, praising God. The people around them witnessed what had happened and were filled with wonder. They pressed around Peter and John, but Peter said “Whoa! Jesus did this, not me! I am a witness, too!” The crowd, like the lame man, would need to put their faith in Jesus and repent and return—they would need to turn from their wicked ways and walk back to God, so that their sins would be wiped away, just as Peter's were.

Peter didn't have an overflow of money. He had an overflow of the Spirit and the good news of Jesus. That was more than enough, and he gave what he got.

We are called to give what we've got. We can't respond to people's needs with what we don't have. When we try to do that, we will fail. But I know from my own experience that sometimes, when there's no "there" there, we are tempted to substitute something else for the truth, to drop a buck in the beggar's cup and walk away because that's all we've got. (illustration: renewal process due to spiritual exhaustion)

Peter shared the power of the Holy Spirit as it overflowed in him. He gave of his excess. We can't do that when there is no excess to give. If we are not overflowing with the Spirit, if we are not fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, according to the gift of God's grace, we have nothing to give.

That overflow of the Spirit, that excess, comes from something Craig talked about last week in his sermon: being steady because we are “...continually devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer.” When we do that we experience the overflow of the Spirit and can give what we've got.

Today, resolve to give only what you've got, out of the overflow of the Spirit at work in you and the good news of the gospel you've received. You can't give what you haven't got. You can't give out of your lack, or worse yet, substitute your own meager resources for the truth. If that is where you are at, it is time to stop and partake of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, according to the gift of God's grace so you can give what you've got, so others will return, repent, and walk back to God.

*Pray for our church plant
in Clifton Park, NY.*

Pray With Us

Dawn Demick: Pray for our country and our schools, students, teachers and administrators, that they all will be safe and protected daily. Pray for Dawn to have calmness in spirit and peace of mind.

Matt Olson: Pray for Nick and Lizzie as they spend time together celebrating Nick's birthday. Thankful Nick got the job he applied for. Nick's dad is on a mission trip to Guatemala, pray for success in sharing God's word and doing His work.

Frank Mace: A co-worker Ann had emergency back surgery, she is paralyzed from the waist down. She has been cleared to work at home. May God continue to bless her; thankful for her outgoing personality. Please continue to pray for Linda as she is exhausted, for peace and rest.

Stacey Sicko: Continue to pray for Betty Ann and her daughter Elizabeth as they continue to work the farm. Betty Ann's husband is in the hospital with breathing issues, pray for healing and that he will can return home soon.

Cindy Capasso: She was at the ER as there was an issue with the baby. She and baby are okay, pray that she will carry this child to full term and for the child to be healthy.

Kevin Bonesteel: Tubing is on for Wednesday, pray for a good turn out and for the Holy Spirit to be with Kevin as he presents God's word. Pray for safety for all.

Ashley Strom: Thankful for her new apartment in Berlin. She is very pleased with it. Her friend Sweeney is in a lot of pain. Pray for relief and for him to make healthier choices.

Jon Gerstel: A co-worker we have prayed for is considering attending Pastor Josh's church. Pray God leads him to where He wants him to be. Pray also for his nine-year-old son who is considering doing harm to himself.

Marie Hoffman: A co-worker Karen who has cancer needs prayer for healing and recovery.

Paula Dibble: Thankful for answered prayer. Pray for her sister Jacque and Jacque's husband Carl as they make decisions for their future. Pray also for safe travel for her friend Jean as she visits family in SC on Tuesday.

Berlin Youth Fellowship,

*Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm
(grades K-12)*

Weekly Events

Women's Bible Study, Evening study Tuesday, February 13, 7 pm in the church library. Daytime study Wednesdays at 10 am in the church library.

Bennington YF, Wednesdays, 6 pm, at the Bennington Rec Center.

Men's Bible Study, Thursday, February 15, 7 pm in the church library.

Upcoming Events

Youth Fellowship Tubing Event, Wednesday, February 21. Meet at the Seventh Day Baptist Church at 8:30 am. We will go tubing at Bosquet for two hours, return to the church for pizza, and then split into two groups for a presentation. See Pastor Kevin for more information.