

Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar

Four Principles of Human Interaction

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu

Prof. Oby Ofoegbu

Banking Blessings Ministry

San Antonio, Texas

USA

What We Will Learn

- Apostles Peter and John
- Illustrate four principles
- For human interactions
 - Teamwork
 - Principle of substitute means
 - Meaningful repentance
 - Results make the best witness
- Acts 3 & 4

At Temple Gate Called Beautiful

- Man crippled from birth
- Expected money from Peter and John
- They could not give him money
- Offered him healing in the name of Jesus
- Helped him up to accept the healing
- Acts 3:1–8

Acts 3 (NIV)

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.

2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

Acts 3 (NIV)

3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

- Peter and John approach man as a team
- Peter is the team leader

Principle of Teamwork

Example by Peter and John

- Present yourselves as a team
- Every member performs his/her function
- Respects other members' functions
- John was attentive but quiet
- Peter spoke to the man
- Introduced themselves as a team
- By saying “Look at us!”

Acts 3 (NIV)

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Peter Provides Healing as Substitute for Money

- Man was crippled
- Expected people to give him money
- Given money, he can accomplish things
- Peter provided healing instead
- Helped the man up to accept the healing

Principle of Substitute Means

- Person recognizes a need
→ man is crippled
- And the expected means
→ money
- But decides to substitute different means
→ healing
- Show the substitute means to be effective
→ help the man up to accept the healing

Example of Substitute Means

- The need → traveler stranded in rural area
- Expected means → Needs a place to stay
- Substitute means → You give him money instead of a place to stay
- Show the substitute means to be effective
 - Direct him to a hotel
 - And transportation to get there

Principle of Substitute Means cont'd

- Complete the process of providing
- A need → The solution
- I was hungry → you gave me food
- I was thirsty → you gave me a drink
- If providing substitute means
 - Show the substitute to be effective
- If providing the expected means
 - Contribute as you can

Peter Explains the Miracle

- People gathered around Peter and John
- Because of the miracle
- Peter explained the miracle
 - Came through name of Jesus Christ
 - And faith that comes through him
- Reminded they rejected and crucified him
- But he knows they acted in ignorance
- Acts 3:11–12 & 15–17

Acts 3 (NIV)

11 While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Acts 3 (NIV)

15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

17 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.

Peter Talks about Forgiveness

- Repent
- Turn to God
- So your sins may be forgiven
- Acts 3:19–20

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Turning to God

- Makes your repentance meaningful
- Defines how you live the rest of your life
- Accept Christ
- Change must be visible in all your life
- Represent God in interactions with others
- Your actions must convey the image of God
- You are God's provider assistant

Arrested for Preaching Gospel

- Priests, captain of temple guard, Sadducees
- Arrested Peter and John; put them on trial
- Before rulers, elders, & teachers of the law
- Astonished by courage of Peter and John
- Realized they could not deny the miracle
- Warned them to stop preaching about Jesus
- Acts 4:1–22 [Read 1,3, 5–7, 13, & 18–22]

Acts 4 (NIV)

1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

3 They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

5 The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.

Acts 4 (NIV)

6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family.

7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Acts 4 (NIV)

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4 (NIV)

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4 (NIV)

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Results Make Strong Witness

- Court of rulers, elders, and lawyers
- Could not punish Peter and John
- Because they did an outstanding miracle
- Known by everybody in Jerusalem
- Miracle was undeniable
- Results were strong witness
- For Peter and John

What We Learned

- Four principles
- For human interactions
- Teamwork
- Principle of substitute means
- To make repentance meaningful, turn to God
- Your results are your best witness