

Focusing Your Gaze On Christ

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

FOCUSING YOUR GAZE ON CHRIST

Key text: Acts 3:1-8

Teacher; Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Omnipotent God, The great I Am, thank You for Your love and mercy, You are exalted in Jesus Christ name, Lord I pray that as we study at Your feet tonight, that You'd teach us, guide us, lead us and keep us safe in You till the end, in Jesus Christ name I pray. Amen

Study

We are reading through **Acts 3:1-8**.

[1]Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. **[2]**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 of them that entered into the temple; **[3]**Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. **[4]**And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. **[5]**And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. **[6]**Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**[7]**And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. **[8]**And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Peter and John went into the temple to pray at 3 p.m. which is the hour of prayer. **Acts 3:2 KJV** 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 of them that entered into the temple; it's worthy to note that it is not the first time the lame man was placed by the beautiful gate. Though he was always seated at the entrance of the beautiful gate yet there was nothing

beautiful about his life. He was living an hopeless life. He had been lame from his mother's womb and had never experienced what it means to use ones legs even to the point that he became a 40years old man, fully grown for that matter, he was being carried daily by some men, thus, he became a full grown man who became a burden to others. Someone who was supposed to be an avenue of help to others became a liability to others. We will not be liabilities in Jesus Christ name, Amen. Right from his childhood it was wherever he was placed/laid that he would have to stay whether he likes it or not, even if the rain is about to fall, he will be there unless he sees a good samaritan to carry him, If there is any chaos he is certainly in greater danger because while others are running even if he had tried to run he'd only be able to crawl, So as usual he was being carried to the beautiful gate because he was living a dependent life.

The interesting thing about this particular day in his life is that, it's possible that was not the first time Peter and John entered the temple to pray but it was just time for God to step into his matter, so as he was being carried by the men and being dropped at the gate, that was the exact time Peter and John was passing by and mercy met with favour in his life and the story of his life changed. When the man first of all saw Peter and John he asked for alms as usual since He never thought that he would ever walk with his legs therefore he settled for the less which is to ask for alms. At this point Peter and John fixed their eyes on him, they paid more attention to him, Peter directed his gaze at Him, just like blind Bartimeaus drew the attention of Jesus which made Jesus to stand still and did not move until he was attended to, that was how Peter paid attention to this lame man for his miracle to appear, and it did! May God pay attention to your situation today in Jesus Christ name. But the painful aspect of this man's story is that he did not pay attention to Peter and John possibly because he was busy asking for alms from others who were going into the temple, he was distracted because he never thought there could be something more that could be given to him by Peter and John than alms (his usual peanuts) so his attention got diverted towards another direction. The truth is that many of us are seriously passing through difficult situations that we have become so hopeless in, just like this man. Your children are giving you tough times, even after doing all you can, there has not been a single change and you have become hopeless and helpless like this man. What about you who have been waiting for God's will for your life in marriage

and till now nothing is showing up. What about you who is facing financial lack currently? you who is supposed to be the breadwinner of your family is now being carried daily financially by your younger ones because no job.

The worst part of the whole matter is that because of that situation you are in, your attention is now being diverted away from Christ. You are like "since I have prayed tirelessly for a spouse and God's will is not showing forth, I think I will consider brother so and so or sister so and so who has been disturbing me for marriage. You are already thinking you will go into fraudulent acts and your attention is already getting diverted from your miracle. Many people have gotten themselves distracted from The Lord Jesus Christ by going to see false pastors and prophets, at such they are unable to pay attention to where the real miracle is, this man did not pay full attention to Peter and John because he never thought that they could give more than he expected but Peter said "look on us" **Acts 3:4 KJV** *And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.* My brothers and sisters in Christ, just in that same way, God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit is saying "look on Us" though you are already distracted from your miracle by seeking for your usual peanuts from that other angle but why don't you keep looking at Jesus Christ? Something interesting that happened in **Acts 3:5 NKJV** *So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.* CEB version says "*So the man gazed at them...*" ESV version says "*And he fixed his attention on them...*" Would you also give Jesus Christ full attention today? would you rather gaze at Him than those you are looking up to for help ? why not fix your attention on Him, He is ready to surprise you. This man fixed his attention on them expecting to receive something from them. Although he might have expected money or material gifts but the fixed attention he gave, birthed outstanding miracles for him. Sometimes when you fix your gaze on The Lord Jesus Christ what you expect may not be what you'd get but be rest assured that it is the best.

Acts 3:6 KJV *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* Assuming he had been given silver and gold he would have been happy but not joyful as the miracle that happened on him because his hopelessness turned around, what he actually needed initially was beyond what money could do so he was only asking

for alms for sustainability, but God gave him his needs rather than his wants. God wants to do the same for you. Beloved, what you think that you need currently may not be The will of God for you at this time, God may be telling you that you deserve more than that, but because you are in a hurry, you are not understanding Him. Whereas what you seek for may come in an unexpected package. This man saw Peter and John as ordinary men like those who had always been coming to pray in the temple, they came in an unsuspecting package and assuming he had already had an idea that he was going to be healed on that particular day, he wouldn't have expected it would happen that way because he must have been expecting people gorgeously dressed, but silver nor gold did Peter and John have, so they were not rich and of course wouldn't have been dressed in expensive attires. The man might have waved them off seeing them as poor men who could not even cater for themselves, not to talk of performing miracles! Or he must have thought that if they could do such then they should have made a lot of money from it, but thank God that day did not pass him by, your own testimony is knocking at the door too and it will not pass you by in Jesus Christ name. Don't lose hope, be encouraged, though weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. After Peter applied the name of Jesus Christ, he took a step of faith to lift the man up.

Acts 3:7-8 KJV And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. [8] And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Peter held the man by his right hand to help him up from his hopeless situation, lifting him up, his legs received strength, Just in the same way, you must let Jesus lift you up. Assuming that man refused to allow Peter hold his hand saying he should leave him alone, how would he have been healed? I don't know if there's someone here who is crying to The Lord to hold his or her hand and lift him or her up from the problem he's facing, from the hopeless situation, from the mocking situation, and even the position that looks unchangeable, The Lord is set to do that. Please fix your gaze on Him, He needs your hand, stretch it out to Him so that he would pull you up, don't get distracted by the peanuts you get around, you deserve something extraordinary and that uncommon miracle is coming your way now, look onto Him who is the author and the finisher of your faith. Amen

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