

Learning to Be Faithful Witnesses to Christ

Acts 3:1 - 26

Scripture is to be found in the Worship Guide for the current week

The Lame Man

Character of Being Faithful in Christ's Ministry - You ARE ALL Ministers.....!!!!

Routinely spent his time begging for some temporary relief for his life problem.

Arrived by God's timing at the same time Peter and John are going into the temple

Asks a routine question --- without specifically directing it Peter and John

Ministry Response

1. They cause him to focus on them and the ministry they are about to perform
2. They make it clear they do not have what he has been used to asking for receiving.
 - a. Many people as you minister to them will want from you only what keeps them captive
 - b. As servants of God we set captives free
 - i. So the prayerful questions to present before the Lord in your spirit before you minister?
 - ii. What is their real need?
 - iii. What will set them free?
 - iv. Is now the time?
 - v. What would you have me do? (How shall it be done?)
 - 1) Sometimes all there is is a message of hope and challenge
 - 2) Sometimes there is an act of liberation
 - a) Some acts of liberation will be "done to them"
 - b) Some acts of liberation will be "done for them"
 - c) Some acts of liberation require them to do something on their initiative which will
 - i) Activate their deliverance from their captivity
 - c. One ministry leads into others
 - i. One testimony leads into others
 - ii. One obedience leads into others
 - iii. The first steps begins the rest of the journey of faith in every minister's heart
 - iv. You are all ministers of the Gospel of Jesus
 - 1) Are you administering the grace of Jesus
 - 2) Are you living in the victory of Jesus
 - 3) Are you living in the joy of sharing Jesus
 - v. Or have you fallen into the Prince of this World's favorite trap
 - 1) "What's God been doing for me lately?"....I'm the only one who looks out for me and look what I've gotten by my mighty right arm!!!
 - a) That person has established themselves as their own savior, and should not be surprised that God is not blessing them.
 - b) They are no longer seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness
 - c) They have succumbed to the Prince of this World's offer - concede that what I say is important....and I'll let you have all the THINGS this world offers
 - d) Just put me before Godthat's all you have to do and I'll make things easy
 - d. Following Jesus isn't about being easy - it's about being righteous in all our values and in all our choice of words and in all our choice of using time and in all our choice of what we value and treasure.
 - i. The things of this world rust, age, depreciate, and are taken away from us

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- ii. The things of God get stronger, grow in value, cannot be taken away and last forever
 - 1) Or worse yet Listing what God SHOULD have done for me !!
 - 2) The death penalty being lifted isn't enough for those with such an ungrateful heart
- e. The best of this world's treasures are silver or gold plating at best, underneath they are just cheap base pot metal.
- f. What God calls leads us to seek is pure sterling silver and 24 karat gold in character and it's the same from the outer edge to the very center of it's inner self.... It grows in value, doesn't deteriorate, but improves, and will endure forever.

Character of our Faith and Walk in the Lord

Peter lays some heavy responsibility on his listeners in his preaching at the end of this chapter

He mentions that his hearers were responsible for crucifying Jesus

So were we

He mentions that his hearers who were taught the truth of God

were responsible for fully rejecting the Son of God and putting Him to death

So we too have been taught the truths of God

¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

This is what we must desire in our own hearts, and the testimony of Jesus that we offer to those God gives us the chance to share the Good News of Jesus with.

Open your eyes..... The fields may be white with snow....but the spiritual fields are white to harvest....for those who long to know what God has provided for them. They won't know unless you are willing to go and show the Love of Jesus in everything you say and do.

Is Jesus being seen in you or is someone else evident in your conversation and in your thought and in your actions?

Are you setting Him up on high in the thrones of your life, or are you lifting him up on a cross again?

What do you suppose that God would have done if there had been those amongst the 500 witnesses to Christ's resurrection if they had gone to the priests and said....he's still alive.... We want the reward of Judas and we don't care...you can put him to death again?

Hebrews 6:4 - 6 (NIV) ⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, ⁶if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

God is not mocked - what a man sows he reaps

I hope you want the results of what you are sowing.....it's within your power to choose

But the outcome is God's to honor or destroy.

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Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and nothing of His will ever be taken from you by God. Seek the Kingdom of this world and everything will be taken from you.

What does it profit a man to gain the whole world....it's possessions, it's wealth, it's accolades, it's prizesand lose your own soul.