

Remnant Life Church  
July 14, 2013

Living in Expectation  
Acts 3:1-10

- To be expectant means to anticipate something usually in a positive light
  - Christmas
  - Birthday
  - Any important event
  - Birth of a child
    - Birth info
- To expect something negative is usually to dread
  - A negative event
  - A trip to the doctor or dentist
- Expectation can be fulfilled or unrealized
  - The question of any type of expectation is “to what end?”
  - Unrealized expectation can be a great source of disappointment

**The joys of realized expectancy in God can only come as a result of when we live our lives in obedience to Him.**

1. In obedience we create an atmosphere where God can bring opportunities
  - a. **V 1** – Peter and John were where they were supposed to be at the time they were supposed to be there
  - b. Contrast this to David in **2 Sam. 11:1**
    - i. It was time when Kings were at war
    - ii. David was at home – NOT where he was supposed to be
    - iii. Just as obedience is the atmosphere for Godly opportunities; disobedience is the atmosphere that breeds sinful opportunities.
2. The lame man was also where he was supposed to be – **V 2**
  - a. Difficult circumstances should never keep us from doing what is right
    - i. Hardship is not an excuse to disobey God
    - ii. Times of testing can strengthen us or expose us
      1. **James 1:3** says that the testing of our faith brings perseverance
      2. **Luke 8:13** - *Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. (Parable of the sower)*
  - b. There were no hospitals or programs for the crippled
  - c. They were taken to the places where the most people were going to be in order to be seen since they depended solely on charity from others
  - d. They especially would want to be at the temple

- i. People going in to pray and atone for their sins would want to do things in order to make them feel better - (kids in trouble)
      - ii. The Pharisees were especially known for their “generosity” but were actually wanting to impress others - (same as their posture in fasting)
    - e. **V 3** – the lame man was in a position to receive what God was going to do
      - i. He was not aware of what was going to happen
      - ii. God wants to bless even when we do not ask
3. If obedience to God is not a part of your life you will miss the opportunities God wants to give you
- a. There is no “close”
  - b. We either receive or miss the opportunity
  - c. Jesus taught in **Luke 10** the parable of the Good Samaritan
    - i. From Jerusalem to Jericho was about 15 miles
      - 1. The area was rocky with many passes to go through giving great places to be robbed
      - 2. Robbery was a thriving enterprise in those days
      - 3. Josephus writes that Herod the Great dismissed 40,000 laborers after the temple was restored
    - ii. The priest and the Levite went another way to avoid the beaten man
      - 1. Sometimes the opportunity given by God can be unattractive on the outside
      - 2. God is not bound to the circumstances in order to accomplish His will
    - iii. The first two missed the opportunity given to them to be a blessing
      - 1. Sometimes our opportunity is about us; sometimes it is about others
      - 2. Do you think that Samaritan received a blessing from God for taking the opportunity presented to him?
4. The lame man looked with expectation to Peter and John
- a. Peter told him to look at them – **V 4**
  - b. The man expected to receive money - **V 5**
  - c. God blessed him far and away with more than he expected
    - i. **Eph. 3:20** - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*
    - ii. God is so much greater than we are often willing to accept
      - 1. Faith is knowing that God is not restricted to what we think is right, fair or possible.
      - 2. His grace and his mercy are things we cannot fully understand because He does them regardless of merit
        - a. **Rom. 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
        - b. Mercy forgives our sins; grace gives us eternal life

5. God receives all the glory
  - a. Peter told the man to look at him so there would be no doubt
  - b. Peter gave what he had been given; the love of God through Jesus Christ
  - c. The name of Jesus holds power in this world
    - i. It did then and it still does today
    - ii. Speaking the name of Jesus will make demons flee and bring peace to a conflict
  - d. God's work is complete
    - i. **V 8** – He jumped to his feet and began jumping
    - ii. The man had been crippled from birth; the power of God brought total healing in an instant
  
6. What are you expecting from God today?
  - a. Are you living in obedience?
  - b. Are you places you should or should not be in your life?
  - c. Will you give God the glory?