

Acts of Jesus – part 10

We're going to pick up where we left off last time in our continuing study of Acts and will be starting chapter 3 today.

--Here we come across the first occasion for a large gathering of people around believers following Pentecost, and, as I understand it, not many days have passed since the Spirit fell and created the Church.

Acts 3:1-10 – supposedly a polished bronze or brass gate that would catch the morning sun rising in the east as it shown through the east gate.

--What a great miracle-- Stories like this of the power of God to change a life are among my most favorite in Scripture.

2, The simple and single question that we are going to answer together is: where does power like that flow?

1. The first answer to that question is: (to state the obvious) God's power flows where He is.

--For nearly a thousand years if you asked a Jew where God's presence was where would he have pointed? Temple mount.

--Consider this lame man's predicament: God's presence—Life Himself--Power unlimited—All the Solutions to any problem or situation was just a few feet away inside the Temple and this man was just outside of it for over 40 years!!

--His proximity to God's presence had only afforded him some money in his pocket and food on his table and he had no idea or hope that it would provide him anything else.

--He is a picture of the Jewish nation-- so close and yet so far—had essentially profited only financially over the years from that potential.

But now something had changed-- when Jesus spoke the words, "**It is finished**" the Bible says the curtain that had separated the Holy of Holies from Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom.

1. We hear that this signified that man could now enter the presence of God -- this is quite true.

2. That was only one side of the equation-- The torn veil let man in, but it also let God out!
--God couldn't just let His presence spill out over mankind prior to Jesus else His holiness would have wiped man out like light cancels out darkness.

--Now God was free to act as He always wanted to.

--Now He had taken up residence in His true temple – the Hearts of People.

--This guy was staring at a couple of those Temples coming up the steps, namely, Peter and John!

--When Peter reached out his hand to this man, was it the hand of Peter or the hand of God? Actually, both – we are ambassadors for Christ.

3. He was healed because God's power flows where He is.

--Remember the story of Lazarus' resurrection? Mary and Martha knew that if Jesus had been present God's power would have flowed. **Jn.11:21**

--Jesus told her that Lazarus would rise again and she responded this way **Jn. 11:24**

--For her, the power of God was only of the past or of the future

--What did Jesus say to her? **Jn. 11:25.**

Jesus is the God of Today-- If we could only grasp our potential!

4. The second answer to the question “Where does God’s power flow?”= God’s power flows where there is expectancy. This man had at least some expectancy about him.

--You are familiar with this verse: **Eph. 3:20**. Do you believe that’s true?

--Did we come to church today expecting that? We come to church expecting to sing, give, see each other, hear some preaching, but do we come expecting God to do something?

--“I wonder what He’ll say to me?”

--“I wonder what He’ll do or how He will reveal His great love and power towards us?”

--Too many times we come to church expecting nothing from God.

--**Heb. 11:6**

James 1:5-8, I Tim. 2:8

--Expect Him to do what is right and best for us (no matter what the circumstances look like)

--Expect Him to be God

--Hudson Taylor’s life motto: “Attempt great things for God, Expect Great things from God!”

--He went on to say,

”Many Christians estimate difficulties in the light of their own resources, and thus attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt. All God’s giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence with them.”

--How insulting do you suppose it is to Him when we expect so little of Him?

God of the past

God of the future

God of today!

“All authority has been given to Me, Therefore, go and I will be with you.”

Let’s expect Him to be who He is

We’ll be covering two more answers to the question “Where does God’s power flow” next time we’re together.