

# **SENT - Sermon Study Guide**

## **What I Have I Can Give: Acts 3-4**

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 3:1-10, 4:13-20



### **Sermon Notes:**

- Acts 3:1-5                      Responding to Needs
- Acts 3:6-26                    Offering Healing and New Life
- Acts 4:1-22                    Boldness to Speak the Name of Jesus
- Acts 4:23-37                  A Spirit-Filled Community

Peter says, “What I have, I give to you...”

As we consider this story, we ask ourselves – “What do I have to give?”

We can respond to this in various ways...

- What do I **have to** give? obligation, duty, expectation
    - where does this fit with Spirit empowered witness?
  - What do I **have** to give? - something of my own character, strength or resources?
    - I often feel like I have nothing left...
  - **What** do I have to give? - What is in us is what comes out of us...
    - Never truly “empty” – something is there... Light or darkness?
    - Do we give... Anger, Frustration, Confusion, Apathy, Shallowness, Guilt, Shame, Judgment, Self-Righteousness, Selfishness? Or love, joy, peace...
- 3:4 – Peter looked straight at him – we need to actually see the needs of others  
3:6 – I don’t have silver and gold – what we have is not temporary – it transforms!  
3:6 – What I have, I give to you - in the name of Jesus – get up! healing, salvation!

### **What do I have to give?**

- We give the gifts of Jesus - salvation, Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, healing
- We give in the name of Jesus - not about us in any way
- We give for the cause of Jesus
  - our gifts are for the task of being witnesses – Peter begins to preach...

### **Boldness to Proclaim**

4:13 – were ordinary, unschooled – just like you and I

4:20 – we cannot help but witness! – when Spirit is evident, it can’t be ignored!

### **Back to Prayer**

4:24 – the community prayed together – thanksgiving and worship

Acts 4:29-30 Their prayer... and ours!!!

Now Lord...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

- After they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly!

### **What do we have that we can give?**

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. In Acts 3:4, the text tells us that Peter “looked straight at” the man who couldn’t walk. What are three or four of the things that you can think of that keep us from truly seeing the needs in front of us? Which one of these barriers to connection is most evident in you? Why do you think this is so for you?
2. Often, in the context of the church, when we hear about giving others, our first reaction can be to feel as though it is an obligation. When we read the accounts in Acts however, we see transformational power at work in the community of believers that produces joyful witness. Do we believe that this kind of transforming power is possible for us today? Where have you seen it? When have you experienced it for yourself? What was that like?
3. If we try to meet people’s spiritual need out of our own strength, it will never work. Sometimes we feel like we have nothing to give anyway. The truth is that we are never an “empty vessel.” Whatever is in us and in our spirit will spill into the lives of others. When you give out of your own spirit, what are people likely to receive from you (see the list above for ideas)? Think of a time when you were filled with Spirit fruit (Galatians 5:22-23) did you run out of fruit? Why not?
4. When Peter heals the man at the temple gate, he uses the opportunity to witness to the good news of Jesus and another 2000 people respond in faith! The gifts and blessings we receive from God are given for the cause of his kingdom. What are a couple missed opportunities that you can think of when you had a chance to point to Jesus and the gospel when you were blessed? Can you also think of a time when you did give witness? How did that go?
5. We are really good at feeling our unworthiness to be witnesses of the gospel. In Act 4:13, the ruling council realizes that Peter and John are “ordinary unschooled men.” In other words, their only qualification for the miracles and the preaching they are doing is because they know Jesus and they are filled with the Spirit. What are three excuses that you use to explain why you are not able to witness?
6. What do you think would happen to our church if we devoted ourselves to the kind of prayer we find in Acts 4:29-30? What’s stopping us?

## **Taking Action:**

In the coming week, pray this prayer of the community for yourself personally and for our congregation daily or even several times a day!

Acts 4:29-30 “Now Lord...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” AMEN