

Evangelism Tip

In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good.

Hebrews 10:24 (TLB)

Connect Group Notes

24 Jan 2010

Ps Dean Sweetman - Accessing the Presence of God

Acts 3:1-8.

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

God knew you before you were born! He waited for the day you yielded to Him and invited Him into your heart. Before you were birthed in the natural you were birthed in the heart of God! (See **Psalm 139**).

Coming to the Creator is the beginning of your destiny! This is an exciting time – beginnings are always exciting. Then the journey begins and obstacles can appear making it harder and trying to stop us from where we are trying to go. Some days we have to just put one foot in front of the other and keep walking towards the destination where we know God wants us to be.

Look at the story and the actions of the Disciple Peter with the beggar outside the temple. Peter and John were walking to the temple for the afternoon service.

- Peter and John had experienced the spirit of God falling at Pentecost. They were going to the House of God for the worship service, to the presence of God.
- The beggar was left at his 'regular spot' by friends who went in to enjoy the service. He was 'unclean' and not permitted in the temple by Jewish law.
- Something about Peter and John caused him to look up and expect something.
- His friends didn't have vision or faith for him and his healing – their thinking was not big enough to bring him inside the temple.
- Peter pulled him up and spoke life. After 40 years he was healed and left walking, leaping and praising God!
- Peter and John were sent to bring the beggar into the presence of God.

The beggar was a 'fringe dweller'. There are people in our churches today who are fringe dwellers. We need to try and get these people from the outside into the centre of church life. Coming into the centre of church brings change. You get a picture of your brokenness and the blackness of your life and it causes you to repent. God brings people around you to help with the re-construction of your life, people who are there to help you become a man or woman of God.

The presence of God is in the Church and we experience it week after week. Coming into the church is like a spa treatment for your whole life. After your salvation it is all about discipleship! After you come to Christ, it is all about allowing God to get His hands on your life. The way he does that is through the people that He puts around your life.

TALK ABOUT

- What would have happened to your life if someone hadn't stopped in their journey and given you the opportunity to be invited to church or be told about Christ?
- How did someone reach out to you when you were a 'fringe dweller' in church life?
- Is there someone you need to reach out to, encourage and support that may be struggling with church or 'walking forward' in their salvation?
- Are there fringedwellers or people that were once in church that you know that you can reach out to?
- What are things we can do to bring people into the centre of church life?

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leaders, you are the best people to identify those people who would benefit from a year at C3 College. Please let them know that 2010 is going to be an amazing year, we have planned incredible updated courses with full time and part time options in Leadership and Ministry (Previously SOM), Creative Ministry (Previously SCA) and a new Friday major in Pastoral Care. Contact Lauren.Taylor@myc3church for more information – or see the training channel on the myc3Church.net web site.

Pam Borrow
Assistant Principal C3 College

Dear Leader,

We are always looking for great stories about things happening in your Connect Group. If you have had some exciting breakthroughs, any inspirational stories, or just tell us what you love about your group, please email connect@myc3church.net

Many thanks, The Connect Team