



The Year of H.O.P.E.

HEALING. OUTREACH. PRAISE & WORSHIP. EMPOWERMENT

## "Changed to make a Difference"

**Acts 3:1-10**

### **Introduction:**

Change Defined: to make the form, content, future course, etc., of something different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone; a **transformation** or modification; alteration.

Change is often **resisted** in the church.

- Yet God's Kingdom must be transformed into Christ's image and aim to change the world. - **Acts 1:8**

**Our Text:** Peter, John, and other disciples have been changed with the arrival of the Holy Spirit and have become transformed people (**Acts 2**); now they embark on a journey to change the **world**.

\* The example set for us: (1) we experience change **individually**; (2) we then get serious about changing the world and impacting our community.

1. The opportunity to transform lives will occur only after we have been **transformed ourselves** - **Acts 3:1**
  - A. Peter's transformation from the Gospels to **NOW**. **John 13:36-38; Luke 22:32,61-62**
  - B. Peter and John are being faithful to transformation into the image of Christ: "going up to the temple at the time of prayer"
  - C. God cannot effectively use us to change Middle Georgia if we do not allow him to change us first. **Psalms 51:10-13**
  - D. God always changes his people **first**, then uses them to change others.
2. The opportunity to make a transformative impact in a person's life will sometimes occur **unexpectedly** - **Acts 3:2-5**
  - A. The purpose of their journey to the Temple was to **pray**; they were not expecting to **heal** a lame beggar.
  - B. Their **willingness** to God's leading enabled them to make an impact in the beggar's life, even when not expecting to.
  - C. Always stay sensitive to God's leading and ask God to open your eyes to those unexpected opportunities to change a person's life. - **Philippians 2:4**
3. We can only transform lives when we give what we **have**. - **Acts 3:6**

**THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON**

A. What the beggar was looking for was not what they had to offer, nor was it what the beggar really **needed**.

B. What did they have that the beggar needed? (what does the church have that the world needs)?

- Faith... that God is in control; that God can forgive sin; that God can transform lives.
- Hope... that the future can be brighter; that present failure isn't final; that God can make all things new.
- Healing... of homes, of shattered dreams, of sin.
- Life... abundant life; eternal life; new life.

\* It is not our job to convince the world, but to simply offer the world what we have in Christ.

**1 Peter 3:15**

4. Our attempt to change lives must be done for the right **motives** - **Acts 3:6**

A. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth..." = not in Peter's or John's name.

B. Peter's goal was for God to use him so that he could give all the glory and honor to **God**.

**Colossians 3:17**

C. The temptation we face is to begin to seek praise, glory and honor instead of giving God his due.

**Psalms 115:1**

5. The potential impact we can make in the world demands that we make it a **priority**. **Acts 3:7-10**

A. The impact of Peter's actions

- Christ can transform a person's life **instantly** (**Acts 3: 7**)
- Christ can transform a person's life **completely** (**Acts 3: 8**)

B. When a person's life is transformed, it is a **witness** to those who have yet to be changed

**(Acts 3: 9-10)**

C. The potential impact we can make only occurs when we are first changed as a believer and as a church, and then when we attempt to change the world.

1. What does God need to change within you that may be potentially hindering your impact?
2. How many impactful moments do you let pass you by daily? Who are you ignoring or avoiding?
3. Has your agenda become the priority over God's business?
4. What does your impact log look like?