



SERMON NOTES

The Book of Acts: No Coincidence Acts 3:1-11

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Acts 3:1 (NLT)

¹ Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

We make time for the really important things in life. God is priority number ONE.

Jewish Hours of Prayer: — The ninth hour was 3 p.m., the hour of the evening sacrifice (Jos. Ant. 14:4, 3). The traditions of later Judaism had fixed the third, the sixth, and the ninth hours of each day as times for private prayer. Daniel's practice of praying three times a day gives us a template, and Psalm 55:17 "Evening and morning and at noon will I pray" carries the practice up to the time of David. "Seven times a day" was, perhaps, the standard of those who aimed at a life of deeper devotion.

Acts 3:2 (NLT)

² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple.

The closer we are to God's Temple the greater the probability of miracles.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES?

Examples of non-coincidental events.

- Acts 8 Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.
- Esther 6 the King honors Mordecai that the dread of wicked Haman.
- Ruth 2:3 says that Ruth went to glean in the fields and "she happened to come to the field belonging to Boaz."

THINGS DON'T JUST HAPPEN, THEY HAPPEN JUST!

Psychologist Carl Jung used the term "Synchronicity" to describe chance happenings between unconnected people or events.

Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.

-Albert Einstein

Acts 3:3-5 (NLT)

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. ⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money.

God meets our needs not our wants. Like this man sometimes we can't see beyond our immediate need.

There he lay at the Gate Beautiful, just because we call something beautiful doesn't necessarily make it beautiful.

Proverbs 11:22 (NLT)

²² A beautiful woman who lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

Proverbs 31:30 (NLT)

³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

Romans 10:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Acts 3:6-9 (NLT)

⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" ⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God.

THIS ACTION SHOWS HOW POSSIBLE IT IS TO BE GIVING LESS THAN OTHERS, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO BE GIVING MORE.

Acts 3:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.