



## CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Relevant Church	SPEAKER	Elder Lok Vi Ming
THEME	A Lifestyle of Evangelism	DATE	12 & 13 February 2022

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In the second sermon of this ongoing series, Elder Lok goes further into the book of Acts and draws lessons from the account of the healing of the lame man at the Gate Beautiful (Acts 3:1-10) to help us respond to God's call to be a church for the poor and weak.

## THE RELEVANT CHURCH

### 1) The Eyes/Vision of the Disciple

Against the backdrop of the Gate Beautiful, Peter and John encountered a lame man. God had taught Peter to see as how He wanted him to see – a broken man needing help, and what he should see – the levels of need – that of a beggar, a lame man and sinner. Seeing as how God saw, Peter responded to the highest need of the man – the need of a sinner.

As Christians, it is important that we see situations of need as God wants us to see. If we continue to turn a blind eye to the obvious needs around us, we would develop a lazy spiritual eye and it would be too late for reparations if we do not address this early. We also need to live our lives openly for the glory of God, to serve as inspiration for those around us when they look at how we live our lives and the values that we espouse as believers.

### 2) The Power of the Disciple

Peter had stretched out his hand to the lame man, picked him up and brought him upright. In contrast to his experience walking on water (Mathew 14:28-31), Peter's faith faltered and he called out to the Lord when he was sinking. The Lord then reached out and pulled him out of the water. Similarly, when we are wallowing in our problems, God also reached out and pulled us out.

The power of the disciple does not come from the silver and gold we carry, but from the Lord who carries us.

### 3) Silver and gold I do not have

The lame man was not expecting any more than to get through the day. Nevertheless, God, through Peter, was going to give him so much more. It gets challenging to claim the promises of God when we are confronted with the prospects of not having our material needs met, but 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us that God has prepared more than what we as humans could possibly fathom.

The gifts of God that were given to us were designed to be given away/shared with others (Ephesians 2:10). He will not send us unless He has equipped us. Hence, we should use the talents that God has bestowed upon us for the glory of God.

## CONCLUSION

The Lord in His grace and goodness, allowed Peter to look at the lame man with different eyes/sight. We need to sensitize our heart and spirit with the Spirit of God, and God will reveal what we should do in His will and timing. We need to have eyes that are able to discern and identify every divine appointment that God has made for us.

The healing of the lame man through Peter was to illustrate/emphasize that we are God's agent for change, using His Power and talents, and to see as He sees. Sometimes we experience dryness in our spiritual life and the call to help others can be grating. We need to humble ourselves and let God use his power through the talents he has given us to help a world that needs His help, and to see as He sees.

We need to stay relevant as believers in an unbelieving ever changing world. The world needs us to live our faith in a way that is relevant, staying closely connected with God so we can present God to the community.

# QUESTIONS

1. List the ways in which the church has evolved to remain relevant in today's post pandemic world. How has evangelism changed?

2. Think about a time in your life where you were struggling and God reached out and pulled you out. How has that experience impacted and shaped your faith?

3. Peter and John saw the lame man as God had seen him and responded to his need. Is there a need God is drawing your attention to? How can you use what God has given you to respond to serve this need?

***Suggested Application: As the relevant church, consider how you and your cell group can meet the needs of the community. Some possible options include:***

- Bethesda Care Services (There is a great need for meals delivery and medical escort, sign up for them at <https://forms.office.com/r/HVrDdWzEWN> )
- POP Excel (More details on page 12 of newsletter at <https://www.bbtc.com.sg/newsletter>)