

## Great Expectations

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-6

### Introduction

Here at the gate Beautiful to the Temple, lies a man who has been lame from birth. He is carried by friends or family each day to the gate to beg from passers by. No surgical procedure could alleviate his problem: he could only expect to be a crippled beggar for the remainder of his life.

#### I. He could only expect the life of a beggar

**Acts 3:2 NIV** 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.

- A. His life is filled with the same monotonous begging
- B. He cannot expect his life to change
- C. There is no help available

#### II. He could only expect the gift of two fishermen

**Acts 3:1, 3 NIV** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer at three in the afternoon. ...When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

- A. These were not wealthy men
  - 1. They weren't men of money
  - 2. They weren't men of fashion
- B. These were men of whom little could be expected
- C. His expectations are dashed by Peter's opening statement

**Acts 3:6a NIV** Then Peter said, "Silver and gold do not have, but what I have, I give you."

#### III. He found their giving reached the heart of his need

**Acts 3:6b** "...in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

- A. His need went beyond his expectation level
  - 1. He hoped for only enough to meet his need for the day
  - 2. He only expected to get something from them
- B. He needed more than a temporary fix
- C. God wanted to meet his real need