

Perceived Needs vs. Real Needs

(Acts 3:1-10)

Introduction

Steve lived in a small boarding house in on the outskirts of town. He was going throw a divorce and was forced to live much simpler than he was accustomed.

During the stress of his life situation, Steve began to smoke heavily “to calm his nerves.”

As a result, the smoke detector kept going sounding. Viewing it as a nuisance, Steve decided to disconnect it.

One night while lying in bed, smoking, Steve fell asleep. The cigarette began to smolder and eventually caught the bed on fire. Firefighters believe that Steve was overcome by the smoke and eventually died in the blaze.

His smoke detector did not give off a warning, because he had disconnected it. Fortunately, the other tenants were able to escape. By disconnecting the smoke detector, Steve lost his life.

Steve viewed the repeated warning of the smoke detector as a problem, but in reality it was a symptom (warning) of a bigger problem.

Many people live life trying to fix the symptom(s) of a problem and not the problem it self.

They perceive their need to be one thing, when in reality their perceived need is only a symptom of their real need.

Contextualize Acts 3:1-10.

Contextualize Acts Series.

I. The Needy Beggar (v. 1-3)

Principle: *Often, a person's perceived needs are not their real needs.*

A) The Nature of His Misery (v. 2)

B) The Consequence of His Misery (v. 2)

No dignity
No matrimony
No money
No worship

C) His Response to His Misery (Beg) (v. 2)

Some of you are thinking, boy I sure need God to do this or I sure need God to do that, but in reality your real need is something totally different. Your real needs are likely spiritual!

- You say, "I need God to fix my job." But, in reality, you need God to fix your attitude.
- You say, "I need God to fix my family." But, in reality, you need God to fix you.
- You say, "I need God to fix my money." But, in reality, you need contentment.
- You say, "I need God to fix my life." But, in reality, you need God to fix your heart.

II. The Miracle of Healing (v. 4-7)

Principle: *Jesus is the true life-changer.*

A) Reasons for Sickness and Suffering

- Sickness because of because of principle of sin

- Sickness because of personal sin (1 Corinthians 11:30)
- Sickness because of Satan's oppression (Matt. 8:16)
- Sickness to the Glory of God
- Sickness unto death (John 11:4)

B) Reality of Healing Today (James 5:13-16)

III. His Joy Proclaimed (v. 8-10)

***Principle:** When God meets a person's real needs, unexplained joy results.*

A) Worship of the Healed Man

B) Awe of the people

Conclusion

What do you desire to see changed today? Is that the real need or is it a symptom of a greater need in your life?