

Acts 3:1-11 (NLT)

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ²As 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. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

⁴Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶But 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!"

⁷Then 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. ⁸He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

⁹All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Q: HOW ARE WE TO INFLUENCE THOSE ASKING FOR HELP?

A: LOOK AT THE...

- _____ for who he/she really is. (vs. 1-4)

(c.f., Genesis 1:27)

- _____ that are really needed. (vs. 5-8)

 definition
 of poverty

+ feelings of

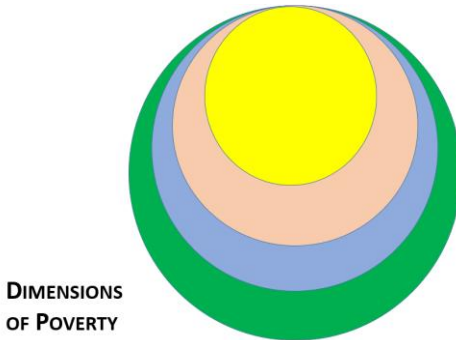
 of materially

+ feelings of

 of materially

= _____ to both materially
 poor and non-poor

From *Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence* (Corbett and Finkert)



- _____ of real change. (Acts 3:12, 16, 19)
(c.f., Psalm 33:18-19)

THE BIG IDEA:

As “crippled beggars”, don’t settle for _____ change but seek _____ change through Jesus.

FOR MEDITATION/REFLECTION:

- What does it mean to you to “look intently” (vs. 4) at the person in need like Peter and John did?
- What does it mean to you that God looks at you intently with a desire to rescue and lead you? (Psalm 33:18-19; 2 Chronicles 16:9)