



## **November 17, 2024 Sermon Study Guide Lee Towns – The Power of Thanksgiving**

### *Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar*

*3 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money <sup>4</sup> Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. <sup>6</sup> 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,<sup>[a]</sup> get up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. <sup>10</sup> When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! <sup>11</sup> They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. Acts 3:1-11*

### **A Life Application Study Guide**

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The holiday called Thanksgiving is not celebrated in every country. But we as Christ Followers should be giving thanks every day, twice a day actually. *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5 NIV*
  - The enemy of your soul would like for you to neglect being thankful. Why?
  - How have you experienced a greater sense of being in God's presence when you begin to list in detail what you are thankful for each day, 2 times a day?
2. How healthy is your current spiritual condition? How are you allowing your roots to stay connected to your Savior? *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7*
  - Why and how will a thankful heart and mind keep you spiritually healthy?
  - Think of a time when you felt more **want** than you did **thanks**. What was going on and how did you recover from the illness of ***complaining and criticizing?***

3. List at least 3 reasons that thankfulness is good for you.

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. On a scale of 1-10, how content are you right now? Not content 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10  
Very Content

A Harvard study discovered that people who are truly thankful people are more creative, energetic, optimistic, make more money, are more socially connected and are more forgiving and more generous.

- How do the results of this study inform us about what the Bible has already taught us about thankfulness? Are you surprised by the study and if so, why?

5. Look back at the story in Acts 3 and what the man does when he is healed. He does not run home to tell his family. He does not sprint through the streets showing off his new moves. He enters the temple. Up until this point he had been unable to go into the temple. His thankfulness allows him access to the temple courts.

- So, the man lived his thankfulness out loud, and, in that process, others heard, saw and were both reminded and encouraged. When have you experienced the thankfulness of someone else that redirected your focus back to God's goodness and His care and provision for you?

- How have you shared your thankfulness out loud for others who need to meet Jesus up close and personal?

## **WALKING IT OUT**

So, what do we have to do to be a thankful person?

1. "I am not enough but God is."
2. When I am seeking direction for a difficult decision, I say...."I am not enough but God is."
3. When I am dealing with a difficult relationship and need to be a grace-giver I say ... "I am not enough but God is."
4. When I am stressed by all the details and deadlines in my life, I say ... "I am not enough but God is."
5. When I am tempted to give into cravings, desires, longing or wants I say...: I am not enough but God is."
6. Today begin to keep a twice a day list of what you are thankful for.