

Acts in Motion

Part three: "On the road to prayer"

Reflection and study notes

Acts 3:1-8

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon. 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. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said,

"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

"I tell you the truth, the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

John 23b-24

"Prayer is the spirit speaking truth to Truth." Philip James Bailey

Introduction:

This is an amazing story of what happens *on the road to prayer*. While the disciples had a regular practice or discipline of prayer it could be said that "real" prayer is what happens *on the way to prayer*.

Monologue: Talking to God

"One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon" Acts 3:1

There are many things happening in your life that God is interested in hearing about.

Are you confident that God wants to hear from You?

Are you confident that God will listen to you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God." Phil 4:6

Your confidence in God's willingness and ability to listen to you will determine your discipline in prayer.

Is it worth your while to have a daily audience with the Creator of the Universe?

On the way to prayer you rehearse the things you want to tell God about.

What do you want to tell God about?

Dialogue: Hearing from God

When you describe the experience of talking to God this experience is accepted as "normal." However when you describe hearing from God you could be seen as "strange."

God talks to you - really?

Yet the Bible is very clear, prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue. God also wants to talk to you.

NOTES	Acts in motion Part three: "Prayer ... on the road to prayer"
<p>I talked to God and wondered ... Does he hear? Does he care? Is this just me talking to myself? A glass ceiling that can not be penetrated</p>	<p><i>"Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him."</i> <i>Deut 5:24b</i> <i>"Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm."</i> Job 38:1 <i>"The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets."</i> Ps 50:1 <i>"She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said."</i> Luke 10:39</p>
<p>I talked to God and God spoke to me Yeah, right! Was that his voice I heard? Vain imaginings in the dark</p>	<p>On the road to prayer the disciples were prevented from going to prayer by the cry of a lame man. Could this cry be that of God speaking? Read Acts 16:16ff and see what happens to Paul and Silas when they were on their way to prayer. How do you experience God speaking to you?</p>
<p>I talked to God and God spoke to me as we meet each other on the way A prayer that was more than words Present in his presence A life forever changed</p>	<p>What would have happened if Peter or Paul had ignored the cries they heard? See what Luke's gospel has to say about prayer on the road. Luke 10:25-37</p>
<p>"The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend." Exodus 33:11</p>	<p>Encounter: An encounter with God Have you ever asked for something and got so much more? This crippled man was asking for money yet he received so much more than money could ever afford. He had an encounter with God! <i>"Then he went walking and leaping and praising God"</i> Acts 3:8 It is one thing to talk to God, another to hear God speaking to you but it is life changing to have an encounter with God.</p>
<p>"Be joyful always, pray continually..." 1 Thes 5:17</p>	<p>Why do you settle for a monologue or a dialogue when you could have an encounter with God? Enoch, Moses, Job, Peter, Paul these are men of the Bible who didn't just speak to God, who didn't just listen to God but who encountered the Living God.</p>
<p>"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests." Eph 6:18</p>	<p>Prayer is more than prayer; it is a meeting place with God. It is more than words and more than a discipline, it is a real time, real life encounter with God.</p>