

SPIRITUAL DEFECTS #2 "The Lame"

Lev 21:16-18

Series: Lev 21:16-24 Those who are not to minister in the temple - list of physical defects. Physical of the OT is the spiritual of the NT. Learning lessons about the things that will hinder us from ministering as men of God. Today: The lame. Those dominated by the past.

I. THE POWER OF THE PAST Acts 3:1-11

- A. Our scripture is a real story about a lame man *Acts 3:2 a man lame from his mother's womb... used to beg at the Beautiful gate.*
 - 1. Things that occurred many years ago intrude into the present; Become present-day troubles
- B. The past can't be ignored: A weakness in one area can cripple you in other areas
 - 1. Normal in the rest of his body: But weakness in his ankles kept him from functioning correctly/normally
 - 2. Our Lev. Scrip. speaking of ministry – The lame : The past affects our relationships/ministry to others
- C. Some things that make people lame
 - 1. **Rejection:** Something not received (*no father/no acceptance*) or something damaged (*told worthless/stupid*)
 - a. What is produced is insecurity about identity: *1 Sam 10:21-22 the LORD said, he has hidden himself among the baggage.*
 - 1. So in relationships/ministry we wither try to protect (*keep from rejection*) or compensate (*make up for*)
 - 2. **Disappointment:** The problem from the past dominates their entire life/viewpoint
 - a. **Setbacks:** Things didn't go well like you planned
 - b. **Failure:** *Man... in my situation... many years ago!*
 - c. **Unexplainable:** John sends messengers to Jesus – I don't get it! Jesus offers no explanations
 - 1. *Matt 11:6 Blessed is he who is not offended in me... Trapped: Becomes the focus of their mind/emotions/decisions*

II. THE ALTERED VIEWPOINT

- A. **Blindness:** *Acts 3:2 Every day he was carried to the Temple gate called the Beautiful Gate.*
 - 1. Can't enjoy the beauty going on around you – life is dominated by what's wrong with you
 - 2. He was at the gate: Close to the presence of God – but for years he has no confidence in God for himself
 - a. People here: But on the inside you feel like you're sitting outside the gate
 - 1. *I don't belong/I don't fit/I don't deserve...*
 - 2. *We show this to people we minister to – causes them either to not be drawn to us or to not have confidence in us*
- B. **View of other people:** Becomes unhealthy
 - 1. **View people as something to use!** *Acts 3:2 to ask alms/money of them that entered into the temple;*
 - a. *Driven by self-pity: Poor me/what I've gone through/way I've been raised: I deserve – you owe me!*
 - 2. **Shift responsibility/our lives onto others:** *Acts 3:5 the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.*
 - a. *You're the answer to my problems/you fix this – you're going to fix what's wrong with me!*
 - 1. Become offended/embittered when people don't do exactly what you expected: Become abusive
 - 3. **View headship incorrectly:** My pastor is the whole answer - You have to fix what's wrong with me!
 - a. Angry when can't have buddy relationship
 - b. Angry when don't get recognition
 - c. View correction incorrectly: View as a personal assault/rejection – rather than to help – or from God!
- C. **Expectations:** Long-term problems are Demoralizing: *Acts 3:2 Now a man crippled from birth...*
 - 1. Our view of our situation changes: Our condition becomes normal
 - a. We change our theology to fit our situation – rather than apply God's word to change our situation
 - 2. When we stop expecting a miracle – we rob other people:
 - a. We put unbelief into the people around us – and they are never helped
 - 1. *Josh 14:8 but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear.*

III. THE POWER OF GOD

- A. God wants to heal you – He wants you to be made whole! *Acts 3:6 In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*
- B. There is a personal responsibility involved here
 - 1. Don't accept the way things are
 - 2. Forgive those who have rejected you
 - 3. Believe God for deliverance
 - 4. Take dominion over tormenting spirits of rejection/unbelief
 - c. Form correct perception of God/your self
 - a. Change your words
 - b. Change your actions: *What do you usually do that's unhealthy? Do the opposite!*
- C. God wants to heal you: So you can touch other people
 - 1. *Acts 3:10-11 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.*