

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 5

Jason Brinker - 10/08/23

GROWING TOGETHER

Like the story of the home that burnt, have you ever felt you were at a certain place to fulfill a purpose but it was never realized? Maybe you were at a friend's house, a work function, or even at a recreational event. What opportunity did you miss to fulfill a purpose?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 3:1:16](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

“Opportunities Open Out of Ordinary Obedience” as Pastor Jason told us. So many times, we go about our days doing exactly what we're supposed to be doing and yet, we fail to see certain things God wants us to see. Other times, we take notice of every little thing that even attempts to grab our attention. **Have you found that being faithful in your spiritual disciplines opens doors for opportunities to represent Christ? Can you share about a time when that occurred?**

Acts 3:2 tells us that the crippled man was “...put there every day to beg from those going into the temple courts”. Have you ever wondered who put the man there? Was it family, friends, other people who were on the way to beg who felt sorry for him? The people who put him there had a daily purpose that included this man. Little did they know they were fulfilling God's purpose on that day. **Do you sometimes struggle with what God's purpose is for you? Do you ever ask God What that purpose is?**

Every day from the moment we wake up, we are seeking things. We are seeking to have a morning of peace and tranquility, an easy commute to our first event of the day, conversations that are easy-going and free from drama, and a plethora of other things. **How often do you seek God throughout the day? Do you have an intentional set time or place when you seek God and what His purpose is for you?**

Acts 3:4 tells us what Peter said directly to the man, “*Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, ‘Look at us!’*”. They saw him... Other people saw him but they didn't truly see him. This crippled man's life was forever changed because one person saw him. God used Peter—empowered him through the Holy Spirit—to bring healing and that man became a walking testimony glorifying God, which pointed so many more to Jesus. **Have you ever been on the receiving end of another believer truly “seeing” you in your need/hurt/pain, when others may not have? Describe that experience and how it affected you.**

We've all been there - you have something to do, someone to see, or some place to be. The slightest hiccup has the potential to derail what you have planned. Stopping to speak and heal the crippled man was not on Peter and John's to-do list that day, but that didn't stop them from being interrupted. That disruption led to a miracle that pointed back to Jesus. **Have you had an experience where what you thought was an interruption actually turned out to be exactly what God purposed for you to do? What are things we can do to make sure that we don't get so consumed with our own schedules or plans that we miss opportunities God places in front of us?**

Pastor Jason made this statement; "I believe that when you seek God, you'll see people. When you spend your days chasing after God's heart, it will start beating for others. The Spirit of God makes you available to others." Share with the group your initial thoughts on this belief. **Would seeking God on a daily basis change how you see your friends, family, spouse, children, coworkers, or even the random people you come across? What are some personal challenges you might experience when you try to see people as God sees them?**

Pastor Jason highlighted five specific actions and ways of thinking that we should practice if we want to live a life on purpose for God's glory. **Of the following, which one is the easiest for you:**

- Seek Him
- Be willing to be interrupted
- Pay attention to the needs of others
- Be willing to give what you have
- Take every opportunity to point people to Jesus

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Pastor Jason said, *“Love Jesus and Love people. As you are willing to be interrupted, as you are willing to give what you have, pointing people to Jesus, He will give you the opportunities to take people by the hand and help them up”.*

Take a look into your life: What do you have that you can give? Maybe you don't have finances to give and that's okay. Remember what Peter said in Acts 3:6, *“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you.”* Maybe what you have is time or the gift of connecting with people, the gift of compassion, empathy, encouragement, or acts of service. Take time this week to identify in your life what you have to give and look for opportunities to put it into action—to see people—and be the arrow that points them to Jesus.

Try pairing up with one of your Life Group members to check in with one another daily. You can have conversations about opportunities that God placed in front of you, how you handled them, then share them with the group next time you meet.

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



