

Unwrapping Christmas: Spend Less

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Scripture: Acts 3: 1-10

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.

²And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.

⁴But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

⁵And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

⁶But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!"

⁷And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

⁸With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God;

¹⁰and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Group Session

Opening Question

What percentage of gifts that you've received in the last few years do you actually remember?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. What are some of your favorite Christmas memories? Do they have anything to do with presents?
2. Can you think of a time when you were given (or gave) something inexpensive, but of great value?
3. "The best gifts say something about the giver." Peter and John gave a gift that showed they'd been with Jesus. In what ways can you demonstrate Jesus' love to your loved ones this Christmas?

Closing Challenge

Take a few moments and look at what you've bought (or will buy) this year. Consider scaling back (or returning some items!) and using the money and time to do something impactful that you and someone else will remember for a long time. Maybe this is the time to start a new Christmas tradition your own family will value for the benefit of others.