Something Better than Gold
Acts 3:1-11

Introduction:
A. Like Peter and John, we may pass people with need for help on the way to church.
B. Like Peter and John, we have the spiritual resources to meet man’s deepest need.
C. Peter and John give us three simple rules of sharing as Christians:

Discussion:
I. They Gave What They Had (v. 6).
A. This was all they could do.
   1. Their Lord was poor - yet rich (Cf. Matt. 8:20; 17:27).
   2. They had left all to follow Him (Lk. 18:28-30).
   3. Yet, they had really lacked nothing (Lk. 22:35).
   4. Do not have to have money to have something to share.
B. This was no more than they should do.
   1. Had been given much, should give much (Matt. 10:8; Lk 12:48).
      a. Not only harmless, blameless, but shine as lights (Phil. 2:15).
      b. Must do more than refrain from evil, must do good (Jas. 4:17; Gal. 6:10).
   2. Cannot sit on our blessings, must return to the Lord with interest (Matt. 25:27).
II. They Gave it in The Name of Christ (v. 6).
A. Herein lies the merit of their gift.
   1. Things small or great rewarded if done in his name and for his sake (Mk. 9:41; 10:29).
   2. Giving and service that leaves the Lord out has little merit. (Matt. 6:1-4).
B. Herein lies the power of their gift.
   1. Had authority or power from Christ to do the miracle “in the name of Jesus” (cf. Luke 10:17).
   2. Every things we do in religion must be “in His name” – by his authority. (Col. 3:17)
   3. To falsely claim to work “in His name” brings condemnation (Matt. 7:22-23).
III. They Gave Something Far Better than Silver and Gold (vv. 8-11).
A. Material and physical things are soon spent.
   1. If parents give best child care without spiritual care – a failure.
   2. If we should give food, clothing, shelter, medical care for all poor of world -- but not gospel.
   3. If take every filthy drunk clean him up, get him a job – but not gospel.
B. Gospel does what silver and gold could never do.
   1. The gospel can save on now and for eternity. (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 7:25).
   2. The gospel was the real purpose behind this miracle (vv. 10-21)

Conclusion:
A. Peter and John shared what they had.
B. They did it in the name of the Lord.
C. They gave something better than gold.
D. You can have something better than gold today:
   1. Obey the gospel.
   2. Be restored.

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Another Sermon by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

1 Adapted from a sermon by this title in “Sermons Preached without Notes” by Charles Koller.