

The Good Stuff

Have you ever watched an old Western Movie where a cowboy walks into the Saloon and orders a whiskey?

- As the bartender starts to pour, he says..
- Not that junk, give me “The Good Stuff”
- The bartender reaches behind the bar and pulls out a special bottle

A few weeks ago in the message “Portable Faith”, I used this Scripture:

Acts 3:1-10

3 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “**Look at us.**” 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “**Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:** In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 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.**

In that message I talked about “**The Good Stuff**”

- This is from my notes for that message:

And we see the lame man waiting to ask them for some spare change...

- **But they had something better to give!!**
- They had the **good stuff** and they were ready to share it!!!

Peter made sure he had the man’s attention when he said “**Look at us**”

- He could have given him a dollar and left him in his broken state
- But instead he gave him a **gift that would change his life forever**
- **The Good Stuff!!**
- And people took notice of this miracle and **started talking!!**

The Good Stuff...

My question today is:

- Do you have The Good Stuff?

I'm talking about the power of God living within you...

- The Holy Spirit equipping you and guiding you
- The ability to overcome the sin and bondage in your own life...
- The ability to speak The Truth of God to this world...
- The Ability to change the world...

Do you have what it takes to say:

- **Look at Me!!!**
- I have the good stuff
- And I'm ready to share with you

Because I'm telling you, **the world is watching us...**

- And when we start being the true witnesses for Jesus
- When we start demonstrating the true power of God
- They will be wanting what we have to offer
- The Good Stuff!!!

And it's not only the world that is watching...

- **Jesus is watching His church**
- And He is taking notes on how we are managing it!!

This is a very important Scripture...

- And it's a tough Word for the church today...

1 Peter 4:17

17 **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

What does the world really see when they look at us?

What does Jesus really see when He looks at us?

- **Do they see The Good Stuff**
- **Or do they see "a hot mess"**

**Before you can give "The Good Stuff" to make an impact in this world...
You have to receive "The Good Stuff" to make a difference in yourself!!**

I have learned that God doesn't waste His blessings...

- He's not pouring New Wine into old wineskins...

If we're going to be the church Jesus designed, we need to take the plank out of our eye, and take a long hard look at ourselves before we start putting expectations on the rest of the world...

Matthew 7:1-5

7 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 **Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

How many people know someone who says they won't go to church because of **"Hypocrites"**?

Isn't that what Jesus is talking about here?

That word in The Bible means

- an actor, stage player

I think what Jesus was saying here is

- Stop playing church
- And start being The Church

Listen church...

- You can't give what you don't have...
- Before you can start making a difference in the world
- You have to allow God to make a difference in you

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It's not hard to get caught up in sin...

Is there sin in your life that you are dealing with today?

- What's holding you back?
- What bondage has you stuck where you are?
- Do you know that Jesus wants to set you free from that?

**I shared a thought on Facebook yesterday:
 You can't get where you are going by staying where you are at...
 God's Word is not simply for your enjoyment...
 His instructions should equip you and motivate you to keep moving in the
 direction of your purpose...**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- **God wants to complete you...**
- **He wants to instruct you in how to live a life pleasing to Him**
- **He wants to help you overcome the sin in your life**
- **And He wants to equip you for your purpose in His Kingdom**

That word reproof means “Conviction”

- **Conviction is not a bad thing...**
- **That’s God going the extra mile to bring you into relationship with Him**

That word “Correction”

- **That means to restore to an upright state...**
- **That’s God’s desire...**

If you have felt conviction today

- **Why don’t you move to restoration**

Closing Prayer:

Psalm 139:1-6

139 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,

And are acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word on my tongue,

But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

5 You have hedged me behind and before,

And laid Your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is high, I cannot attain it.

Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.