

Dr. Ron Armstrong • June 20, 2021

The Movement Begins: Surprised Expectations

Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer... [2] Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. [3] When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. [4] Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" [5] So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

[6] Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." [7] Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. [8] He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. [9] When all the people saw him walking and praising God, [10] they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

[11] While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. [12] When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? [13] The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. [14] You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. [15] You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. [16] By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made

strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

A. Dad's expectations show.

1. We think we can hide our emotions, but most emotions show.
2. Your kids need to know that you love them, but they also desperately need your help in setting expectations for themselves. Two errors:
 - a. None or too low.
 - b. You can have everything. (Anything?)
3. We tend to use our experience to set expectations. Christ-followers have to see beyond their experience and include what God can do in the willing heart.
4. Good news: Unlike most parenting, this part of being a dad doesn't have an expiration date.

B. First, teach that God surprises expectations.

1. The beggar expected money. Don't let your expectations make you blind to blessings. Forget what you expected and celebrate.
2. Why were the people surprised? They expected nothing. Christ-followers should pray for everything and give up on nothing until God decides.

3. Life's hurts can drive your expectations down. Trusting in God's goodness and time with God's people can raise them.
4. Continually remind them that God can do "immeasurably" beyond our thinking.

C. Second, teach them the real success goals instead of the ones your culture teaches.

1. They are bombarded with images that our culture describes as "success." They're dangerous because so many lead to emptiness.
2. Here's a pretty good list of biblical (real) success:
 - a. Love God with all your heart.
 - b. Love your neighbor as yourself.
 - c. Act justly.
 - d. Love mercy.
 - e. Walk humbly.