

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 5TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## DESPERATE FAITH (JOHN 4:43-54) JESUS IS WELCOMED IN GALILEE

After two days in Samaria, Jesus and His disciples arrived in Jesus' home region of Galilee.

- The Galileans welcomed Jesus because **they were familiar with Him** since He was from there. **They knew Him as the carpenter's son**, and "they had seen everything he did in Jerusalem."

### "A PROPHET HAS NO HONOR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY"

Because of the Galilean's familiarity with Jesus, they did not recognize who He really was.

- When it comes to the Messiah, **a false familiarity is dangerous: when we think we know Jesus, but we really don't**. The error of our knowledge will be revealed when Jesus says, **"I never knew you. Depart from me"** (Matthew 7:21-23)!

### DRIVEN BY DESPERATION

In Galilee, Jesus returned to Cana, where He had turned water into wine. While there, a royal official heard that Jesus had returned and approached Him because his son was about to die.

- A desperate faith drove him to Jesus to beg and plead for his son. The royal official's **faith was built more on what Jesus could do but not on who Jesus was**.

### CORRECTION NOT CONDEMNATION

Jesus says to the crowd of Galileans, **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."**

- Whether Jesus was talking about the royal official or the crowds is irrelevant. Knowing the hearts of those present, **Jesus aimed to correct misguided faith and not condemn it**.

### TRUSTING JESUS ON HIS WORD ALONE

The man asked Jesus to come and heal his son, but Jesus said, **"Go, your son will live."** Jesus requested that the man turn and make the journey back home, trusting that his son was healed.

- **The man displayed total trust that Jesus would do what He promised, and that total trust resulted in him doing what Jesus said to do**.

### FAITH DEEPENED AND MULTIPLIED

While the man was going home, his servants met him and confirmed that his son was healed at **"the very hour at which Jesus had told him, 'Your son will live.'"**

- **The miracle of Jesus developed a greater faith in the royal official and his entire household**.

### ABSENCE OF FAITH (JOHN 5:1-9A)

#### JESUS MAKES THE JOURNEY SOUTH

Jesus has now returned to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast. We do not know which feast it was, but it was important enough for Him to return.

- Upon returning, Jesus stopped at a pool that would have been in the northeast corner of Jerusalem, right by one of the city's gates.

### POOL OF BETHESDA

Five colonnades would have surrounded this pool, where multitudes of the blind, lame, and paralyzed would wait under cover in hopes of healing.

- Local superstition taught that an angel was stirring the water and the first person into the pool would be healed from their affliction when this stirring began.

### STOP MAKING EXCUSES

Jesus approached a man who had been disabled for 38 years and asked him, **"Do you want to get well?"**

- The man responds by pointing out all the obstacles standing in His way of healing. **Jesus came to heal us from the effects of sin. He offers us the opportunity to get well if we would stop making excuses**.

### NO ONE IS TOO FAR GONE

Jesus bypassed superstition and told the man to "pick up his mat and walk," and he did!

- The length of the man's condition was no problem for Jesus.
- **We tend to think that we have bore a condition too long and are too far gone beyond help. Jesus shows that through Him, anything is possible** (Philippians 4:13).

### ABSENCE OF FAITH

We cannot miss the absence of faith that the paralytic man displayed. He did not ask for help, and he showed no evidence of faith. In fact, we see that he did not even know who Jesus was.

- **Healing is not contingent on the quality of someone's faith but solely upon the Healer**.

### MISSING THE SPLENDOR (JOHN 5:9B-15)

#### THE SABBATH

The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, set aside as a day of rest, mimicking the creation narrative, where God created and rested on the seventh day.

- Observing the Sabbath was an important sign of the covenant between God and His people. However, **man's interpretation of God's law created hurdles too difficult to overcome**.

### A DAY OF REST

As NT Believers, under a new covenant, we are no longer required to observe the Sabbath as a legalistic day of rules and no work.

- However, we keep the Sabbath holy by setting aside time to worship and honor God. We still set aside "a day of rest," but **our rest is found in Jesus** (Matthew 23:4).

### VIOLATING MAN'S LAW AND NOT GOD'S

The miracle was by no accident performed on the Sabbath. Jesus knew healing on the Sabbath would upset the Jewish leaders, but commanding someone to pick up their mat and carry it out of a public place would anger them even more.

- **They placed all authority in the law, and He wanted them to see His authority as the Son of God**.

### MISSING THE SPLENDOR OF GOD

Notice the question was not, "Who healed you?" but "Who told you to pick up your mat?"

- The miraculous was happening all around them. The Messiah had come, and they completely missed it. **Their religiosity, zeal for religious activities, caused them to miss the splendor of God**.

### SOMETHING WORSE?

Jesus found the man He healed and told him, **"Do not sin anymore, so that something worse does not happen to you."** This does not mean his condition was because of sin or that a physical condition worse than being paralyzed for 38 years would happen to him if he sinned.

- The "something worse" Jesus spoke of is **the judgment that comes from sin**.

### HIS WORKS EXPLAINED (JOHN 5:16-23)

#### HIS RESPONSE

To speak directly to the issue of working on the Sabbath, Jesus told the Jewish leaders, **"My Father is still working, and I am working also."**

- Jesus not only **claimed equality with God** by calling God "my Father" instead of "our Father," but also **claimed authority over the Sabbath**.

#### HIS EXAMPLE

Jesus cannot do anything of Himself and only does what He has seen the Father do.

- Jesus does not act independently of the Father because **He is fully and perfectly submitted to the Father's will**. Jesus is not coerced into submission, and His submission is not due to inferiority. **It is a loving submission**.

#### HIS POWER

Just as the Father can raise someone from the dead and give life, **the Son can give life to whom He wants**.

- The Father raising someone from the dead seems to allude to the resurrection of Christ. Jesus is claiming that He, too, will raise someone from the dead, and **He has come to offer new life to spiritually dead people**.

#### HIS JUDGMENT

Having the same authority as the Father, **Jesus claimed to have been given the authority over all judgment**.

- We all, Believers and unbelievers, will come face-to-face with Jesus at the judgment seat **"so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil"** (2 Corinthians 5:10).

#### INVENTORY

- **We are never too sick, never too lost, never too sinful that God's power cannot reach us**.
- **Jesus' miracles always had a purpose beyond creating amazement. Miracles are not produced by faith. Instead, they produce faith**.
- **Though Jesus performed physical healings, He is more concerned with our spiritual health, and so should we**.