

Willing and Able

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. City Serve Tee Shirts - if didn't receive, pick up in **info booth**.
- B. Slide2 Thrive - 3rd service, rm 131. Topic, *Who is God?* Nate.
- C. Slide3 Albania Trip - repair housing for *trafficking victims, elderly, families in transition*.
 - 1. Finances being raised for **Construction**. Donuts sales. **Also**, Tacos, quesadillas, burritos, iced coffee. **Or** give towards.
- D. Slide4 Derrick Roth - Principle over our 2ndary (Jr.H & HS). **Enrollment** Tues, **Preview Night** Fri
 - 1. **Questions: What is Preview Night all about?** Derrick you're the principal for our Junior/Senior High, can you share with us why someone might want to send their kids to our school.
- E. Slide5 Children at Risk - next Sun, 3pm. In Sanct. We're hosting a screening for a **new movie** made by *Bring Me Hope* (local organization that works with orphans in China). **Fourth World. Filmed in Philippines. Inspired by true events. Captures the life of children living at risk.** It's a gritty adventure story of one girls survival. This is a free public event, **pray about who to bring** to spread awareness & become more educated/trafficking. **Slide6a**
- F. Slide6b Prayer: 1st quote...*A woman walked up to Spurgeon & said, Jesus changed my life & He's never going to hear the end of it. :)*

II. Slide7 Intro: **Willing and Able**

- A. Slide8 If we cut Matthew in 1/2 ch.1-10 is **the King Revealed** & ch.11-28 **the King Rejected**
- B. Matthew first introduced us to Jesus as **the Person of the King** in ch.1-4. **Next, to the Principle of the King** in ch. 5-7. **And now** we'll see **the Power of the King** in ch.'s 8,9.
 - 1. After all, if a king **doesn't have Power**, what good are His **credentials or principles?**
- C. In ch.8,9 we'll see **10 miracles** (**5** in *Capernaum*, the city that rejected him).
 - 1. These **aren't** in chronological order (except the last 4) [**Mt was writing Thematically/ Messiah**]
- D. **Why did He perform miracles?** *3 reasons...*
 - 1. To meet human needs [**2**] They were additional credentials [**3**] It fulfilled OT prophecies.

2. Jesus definitely didn't perform them *to get a crowd*. He usually *avoided* the crowd [see 18]
 - a) Avoided...so people wouldn't trust simply on the basis of *spectacular deeds* - but on His **words**.
 - (1) *How will they hear w/o a Preacher...not, How will they see w/o a Miracle.*
- E. Slide9 The Miracles in ch.8,9 are in 3 groups, w/an event relating to **discipleship** separating the groups. 8:1-22 **Grace to the Outcasts**. 8:23-9:17 **Peace to the Disturbed**. 9:18-38 **Restoration to the Broken**.
- F. So Let's look at God's Grace to the Outcasts.
 1. Remember *Leper's, Gentiles, & Women* were considered **Outcasts** by many Jewish People, especially the religious leaders.
 2. They say many Pharisees would pray each morning, *I give thanks I am a man & not a woman; a Jew & not a Gentile; a freeman & not a slave.*

III. Slide10 **LEPER CLEANSED (1-4)**

- A. **Leprosy** - one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world. [From Latin *lepra* meaning scaly]
 1. AKA Hansen's Disease.
- B. The Jewish Talmud taught that Leprosy was *2nd only to death* in its list of defilements.
 1. The Rabbis believed it was a direct judgment from God.
- C. **This Leper breaks all the Leper Codes** - Namely, to stay away from people (150' radius), and yell *Unclean, Unclean*, when approaching.
 1. This guy ran right through **the great multitudes** (vs.1) & **right up to Jesus** (only an arms length away) **with great faith** that Jesus would heal him.
- D. **Leprosy is an illustration of Sin**.
 1. **Lev.13** helps us to understand *the nature* of sin. It is Deeper than the skin (3). It Spreads (8). It Defiles (45). It Isolates (46). It is only fit for the Fire (52,57).
- E. Slide11 This man didn't doubt Jesus **ability** to heal, **but** only His **willingness** to do it.
 1. **We are the same**. We know what Jesus **can**, **but will He?**

2. I sure don't think it is a lack of faith on our part to ask Him, will He? Does He want to? Because as we have examples of in Scripture, sometimes He doesn't want to (Paul), or right then. **But here...**He is **Willing and Able**.
- F. **Slide12 Touched him** - He hadn't had **a human touch** for years. *No Handshake nor fist-bump. No embrace nor kiss. No hand on his shoulder no pat on the back.*
- G. Jesus could have just **said**, *be clean*, **but** he didn't, *He touched Him* :)
1. As we said Leprosy is an illustration of **sin**...whatever **sin** you in right now, **don't** be like countless lepers who said, *I need to stay away from Jesus. I'm Unclean. Jesus can handle your sin. He's not shocked, horrified, nor embarrassed by it.* Jesus **touched** the Leper...He can **touch** your **sin** as well.
 2. **Don't wait till your Leprosy goes away to approach Him. It won't. It can't.**
- H. **Tell the priest** - This *ceremony* had been on the books for 1500 yrs., **but** we never hear of one Leper cleansed...**until** this man.
- I. **Tell no one** - Maybe he was just helping Jesus with his *public relations*.
- J. **Why did He not allow the man with the skin disease to spread the news about Him?**
1. Jesus did not want His program co-opted by others. He would reveal Himself **on His own terms, when the time was right**. Jesus' **purpose was not popularity and political insurrection but discipleship** and ultimately **the cross**.
- K. Mark 1:45 nl *But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.*
1. **Now** the former Leper could go **in** (to the city) **while** Jesus is now on the **outside**.
 2. **Don't tell anyone**, **and** we tell everyone. **Go tell the world**, **and** we tell no one.
- L. **Slide13 Offer the gift** that Moses commanded - **2 birds**. Lev.14:4 **then** the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed **two living and clean birds**, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. 5 **And** the priest shall command that **one** of the birds be **killed in an earthen vessel** over running water. 6 **As for the living bird**, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and **dip them and the living bird** in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. 7 **And** he shall sprinkle it seven times on him

who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and **shall let the living bird loose** in the open field.

1. Slide14 Birds don't belong in clay Jars, they ought to be *flying* in the heavens. Which reminds us of **Jesus' incarnation**, when He limited Himself into a body once formed from clay, the body of a man.
2. If the 1st bird speaks of Jesus **life** in an earthen vessel & experienced **death** in it also. Then the 2nd bird **being set free** can represent His **resurrection** from the dead.

IV. Slide15 CENTURION SERVANT HEALED (5-13)

- A. A centurion was a Roman officer w/**100 men** under his authority.
- B. We have 3 Centurion's in the N.T. All 3 believers. [1] at Capernaum [2] The one in charge of the Crucifixion (*Truly this was the son of God*) [3] Cornelius.
- C. A centurion came to Him - This was odd. [Luke adds, that *he was wealthy*]
 1. So, We have a **wealthy** man, dealing with a **poor** man.
A **Roman** citizen, asking something of an **Israeli** citizen.
A **Gentile**, asking a **Jew**. A **powerful centurion**, asking a **meek carpenter**.
A mighty man of **war**, asking of the Prince of **Peace**.
- D. Matthew records only 2 Gentile miracles, this one & *the Syro-Phoenician woman*.
 1. In both, Jesus was impressed w/*their great faith*.
 2. Both he healed from a distance: A reminder of *the spiritual position* of the Gentiles still being *a far off*. From Eph.2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ*.
- E. Slide16 (11) Many will come from E & W - 3 truths...
 1. Many **Jewish** people that thought they **will** be there by *pedigree*, **won't**.
 2. Many **gentile** people thought that they **wouldn't** be there, **will**.
 3. The only way to get there is **not by national, racial, or geographical residence, but by faith in Christ**.
- F. So far we've had...a **leper** healed, *someone outside the camp*. Next a **gentile** healed, *someone outside the covenant*. Now a **woman** healed, *someone outside the common*

value of the Patriarchal society.

V. Slide17 **PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW HEALED (14,15)** [I guess the 1st pope was married] :)

- A. When a mom's sick, you know it must be serious.
- B. Doctor Luke said she had a *High Fever* (prob a *continuous* fever. Probably *chronic*. Certainly *severe*)
1. **Malarial fevers** were common, from the **marshes** nearby, near the mouth of the Jordan river. **1950's** they drained **the Hula Valley** for this very reason.
- C. **I love this day on our Israel Tour.** From standing on the Mnt we see this very path Jesus took in Capernaum. [Sermon on Mnt, leper, cent servant, synagogue, into his house]
1. Mark 1:29 *Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.*
- D. This might seem like *a minor miracle*, but the results were *major*, for after sundown (when Sabbath ended) the whole city *gathered at the door* that the Lord might meet their needs, says Mark 1:32-34.
1. The change in **one woman's life**, led to miracles in **the lives of many people**.
- E. **Slide18** John's Gospel (1:44) points out that Peter's *orig* home was in **Bethsaida**.
1. **Peter moved everything to Capernaum to follow Jesus.** His fishing business, his in-laws, the whole enchilada/or *falafel*.
 2. **Bethsaida** = house of fish/fishing. [we have visited, the found fishing hooks there]
 - a) He moved to Capernaum where Jesus had his headquarters. Peter left his place of occupational prosperity to be close to Jesus.
- F. **Served them** - Jerome said, *That hand ministered which had been touched & healed.*
1. One of the signs you can tell if **one's life** has been touched by Jesus, is that you'll see them start **servicing**.
 2. She seems to communicate, *He helped me, who can I help?*

VI. Slide19 **MANY HEALED (16,17)**

- A. I believe anyone that is sick will *definitely* be healed...*some now, some later, some when we get in heaven.* *But I will restore you to health & heal your wounds, declares the LORD.* Jer.30:17
- B. **Matthew understood this fulfillment in the light of the larger, atonement context of Isaiah.**

1. **Slide20** Jesus' **healing ministry** was part of His larger ministry of **bringing in the kingdom** (Mt 4:23).
 2. His **atoning death** was the central and necessary feature of this kingdom.
 3. **His healings** were a **foretaste** of the ultimate benefits of His death, benefits that will not be fully realized **till His return**. **Thus** this passage doesn't teach that Christians can expect **automatic healing** in this age. **Yet let's ask by faith**.
- C. **Slide21** Ever since **sin** entered the world, **humanity** has waited for the **the heavenly authority** to do the **reversal**. **Jesus' miracles** demonstrated this power and authority.
- D. **Sin** brought 3 primary effects:
1. God's **once-perfect creation** became laced with **corruption**.
 2. **The earth** would no longer cooperate **as** man must **toil** to produce meager results
 3. Sin also gave **Satan** a position of power in our world, that he continues to exercise, **since** the day he tricked Eve.
 - a) All **humanity** was corrupted, **physically & spiritually** by **sin** & its culmination **death**
- E. **Slide22** **Jesus' miracles** are best understood against this backdrop of sin's corruption.
- F. **And so we are shown 3 types of Miracles in the gospels:**
1. **Nature Miracles** **wind/waves** - Jesus' miracles **reverse** the destructive effects of sin
 - a) This shows proof of Jesus as the **Creator** of all things, endowed w/the **re-creative power**.
 2. **Spiritual Authority Miracles** **casting/demons** - Jesus not only **opposed** Satan/demons directly...He **disposed** of them with ease. *Immediately bringing them under His control.*
 3. **Healing Miracles** - Jesus' healing miracles declare His power to **remedy** and **eradicate** the effects of sin **on humanity**.
 - a) The presence of disease and death in our world **continually reminds us** that **we are physically and spiritually broken**.
 - b) **Sin** has **radically marred** **God's image** in us, **and** we are powerless to **reverse** the inevitability of **death** and **its effects**.

- c) When Jesus came into our world, He brought *the heavenly authority* necessary to *cleanse those with disease* **but also** demonstrated Jesus' greatest healing power is His authority to *heal spiritually, i.e. to forgive sin.*