

"INSIGHTS FOR LIVING"

WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS

Mark 1:40-44 (TLB) Once a leper came and knelt in front of him and begged to be healed. "If you want to, you can make me well again," he pled. And Jesus, moved with pity, touched him and said, "I want to! Be healed!" Immediately the leprosy was gone—the man was healed! Jesus then told him sternly, "Go and be examined immediately by the Jewish priest. Don't stop to speak to anyone along the way. Take along the offering prescribed by Moses for a leper who is healed, so that everyone will have proof that you are well again."

Does life find you this day in a situation whereby you simply feel hopeless and helpless? Maybe you have been living for sometime in a situation that you feel is absolutely of hopeless and you have been living that way for a long time. You come to church, read your Bible, but for some reason only known to you and the Lord God, you simply feel that your life, and your life's situation and circumstances to you are utterly hopeless. While this time of the year is a time of "Thanksgiving", in truth, there are many who find themselves this morning in a sense of hopelessness and despair, depression, and discouragement. The reality of life is that there are those times in life when things honestly may appear hopeless in our lives. It may be in the area of relationships, finances, health. Two vital truths are important to remember in our hopeless situations.

FIRST> WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS....IT IS NOT HOPELESS FROM GOD'S VANTAGEPOINT. The divine truth of God's Word reveals hundreds of human dilemmas that were impossible from a human vantage point. In reading the mighty deeds of God all throughout the pages of Scripture, it is the heart cry of the Father, that "we, His children" understand that nothing is impossible with God. Moses and the children of Israel faced impossible situations...but totally possible with God. Joshua faced an impenetrable fortress at Jericho...but not with God. Daniel faced fierce lions and sure death...but not with God. David faced an impossible giant, Goliath...but not with God. All the miracles of the New Testament are impossible from a human vantage point...but totally possible with God. The divine truth that this one leper learned on that day when he was healed was this...there is not one single solitary impossible situation when it is surrendered to the very person of Jesus Christ. The truth of your hopeless situation is this...it may appear completely and absolutely hopeless to you...but it is by

no means hopeless with the God of the universe, the God that created all that we know and see. God declares to us in *Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

SECOND> WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS...ALL THINGS ARE CHANGED WHEN WE CRY OUT TO JESUS. The physical condition of this man was completely hopeless. His body revealed exactly how hopeless his situation was. There was simple child-like faith in the very person of Jesus. This man wasn't looking to Jesus for a "religious lesson", he was looking to Jesus for healing. He knew in the depth of his being, that Jesus could heal him, and he believed in Jesus to heal him. Scripture records exactly what happened in this hopeless situation:

First, this helpless leper knelt humbly before Jesus. While he knew he could have asked Jesus to help standing, in truth, his kneeling was the admission before Holy God of his utter helplessness. When we are brought to our utter helplessness...kneeling before God is a small thing. If your hopelessness situation has not brought you to the point of kneeling, could it be that you have not reached the point that the Father can do His mighty work? In spite of his body, in spite of his pain, he knelt before Jesus. There was no "show" or "pretending". When we are willing to "kneel" before Holy God, that is the first act in allowing God to conquer our hopeless situation. Sadly so many people will continually live in hopeless situations for the simple reason that they will "not bow" before Him presenting their situation to Him.

Second, he cried out "in faith" to Jesus with a specific need. Here is his personal request to Jesus, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean". He didn't ask Jesus to "help him get better", because he knew he was helpless. Helplessness is a wonderful place for us to be in, for it is in helplessness that the God of the universe positions us, to see and experience Him at work. Though this man was completely incurable, he was completely curable from Jesus vantage point...but it involved crying out to Jesus in faith, and the same holds true today. Whether it be: relationships, finances, salvation...it involves crying out to God.

Your situation may seem incurable, but it is not when you are willing to cry out to Jesus. Jesus completely cured this man's leprosy (his hopeless situation) and the same Jesus that cured him can and will cure your situation, but the question that is involved is this, "Do you really believe Jesus can?" "Do you believe Jesus will?" "Will you humble yourself before Jesus?" "Will you cry out to Jesus for rescue in your situation?"

No person in Scripture was healed or saved apart from faith being involved. No person is helped or rescued today apart from faith being involved. You may think your situation is hopeless, but that is only in your thinking, every time a hopeless situation is presented to Jesus, and Jesus is honestly sought with faith, He moves in mighty ways to bring about His divine rescue...without exception.

Has your hopeless situations caused you to cry out to Jesus for Him to rescue? When you do, He will move heaven and earth for that person who call to Him.