

Morning Sermon Outline – October 22, 2017

“Reaching the Rich and Powerful” or

“The Not So Obviously Powerless”

John 4:46-54

Whenever we get to John chapter 5, we will meet up with a man who you might call, the sickest-of-the sick, or the weakest of the weak! His infirmity, John 5:5 tells us, he had thirty-eight years. Because this infirmity made him immobile, or at least extremely SLOW, he was not able to get to the healing pool before the other sick people and therefore; he stayed sick, he stayed WEAK; until Jesus healed him! The man we meet in this chapter, seems his opposite, he does not seem weak at all. He is a nobleman, powerful, and rich!

What is his problem?

I. At one point, his problem probably was, the deceitfulness of riches –

And there was a certain nobleman (John 4:46 NKJ)

βασιλικός basilikos {bas-il-ee-kos'}

Meaning: 1) of or belong to a king, kingly, royal, regal 1a) of a man, the officer or minister of a prince, a courtier 2) subject to a king

Where he was he would have been a nobleman under Herod, who was a wicked man –

- *Herod who beheaded John the Baptist – Matthew 14:1-11*
- *Herod who would later want to kill Jesus –*

On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." (Luke 13:31 NKJ)

This nobleman, who is unnamed here was almost certainly rich and powerful, and likely nasty too, being under and close to Herod – Jesus spoke of the deceitfulness of riches –

“... and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” (Matthew 13:22 NKJ)

*Paul would later say, “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, **not many noble, are called.**” (1 Corinthians 1:26 NKJ) - Paul said not many noble, but he did not say not any noble ...*

II. He (the nobleman) learns what riches cannot do –

So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. (John 4:46-47 NKJ)

1. Neither riches or power can save a sick child -

“Nothing can shatter us more quickly or more completely than affliction falling upon our children. Nothing! Hearing the doctor’s diagnosis, as I have, that your child has spinal meningitis, and then watching the doctor withdraw that huge hypodermic needle from your child’s spine, your life turns gray and you wander from lab to clinic to doctor feeling like a useless character in a story no one wants to hear, thinking again and again, *This cannot be happening!* I understand how that nobleman felt! Behind his eyeballs burned an incessant fire, while on the outside he found himself enshrouded in grim darkness because the light of his life was about to expire. The tragic fact is, though children have a sense of immortality about them, children do die! All we have to do is visit a graveyard and look at the interminable gray monuments and we will see there are many who never made it to adulthood.” R. Kent Hughes

A. Job was a rich man, who lost his riches and all his children all at once –

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ "and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" ²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's

womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. (Job 1:18-22 NKJ)

Job later would say – For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble spring from the ground; ⁷ Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward. (Job 5:6-7 NKJ)

*B. Sickness, trials, difficulties are in this world because of sin, not because of lack of money or poverty –
Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? (Lamentations 3:39 NKJ)*

“There are many things money cannot buy. Money can buy a king-sized bed, but it cannot buy sleep! Money can buy a great house, but it cannot buy a home! Money can buy a companion, but it cannot buy a close friend! Money can buy books, but it cannot buy brains! Money can buy a church building, but it cannot buy entrance into heaven! And as our text suggests, money cannot buy life and health.”

R. Kent Hughes

III. What riches and power cannot do, Jesus can –

Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." ⁴⁹ The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying, "Your son lives!" ⁵² Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ So the father knew that *it* was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. ⁵⁴ This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. (John 4:48-54 NKJ)

1. *When Jesus said, "Unless you *people* see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." – verse 48*

He was probably forcing this nobleman to distinguish himself from the other leaders of the Jews who were requiring a sign –

So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" (John 2:18 NKJ)

2. *This man immediately does just that by PRAYING, proving he is not testing but rather he is trusting Jesus with the life of his son –*

The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" (John 4:49 NKJ)

*When this man uses the word translated here "sir" what he is actually saying is Lord – κύριος kurios {koo'-ree-os} **Meaning:** 1) he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord 1a) the possessor and disposer of a thing 1a1) the owner; one who has control of the person, the master 1a2) in the state: the sovereign, prince, chief, the Roman emperor 1b) is a title of honour expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants salute their master 1c) this title is given to: God, the Messiah*

It is the exact same word used in Philippians 2:11 –

and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:11 NKJ)

3. *This is strong evidence, not only will this man's son saved from illness, but his soul would be saved from Hell –*

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3 NKJ)

4. *This man's faith his tested and improved, by Jesus' power to heal from a distance – John 4:50-54*

A. *His inquiry about the hour proves to him Jesus is Lord, if he had any doubts before they are all removed NOW –*

B. *His entire household is brought to faith in Christ –*

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15 NKJ)

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