



WITNESSING THE WORKS OF JESUS

ANOINTED FOR THE POOR, BROKENHEARTED, CAPTIVE, BLIND, AND BRUISED –LUKE 4:18



Witnessing The Works of Jesus
Anointed for the Poor, Brokenhearted, Captive, Blind, and Bruised
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More Than Conquerors Publishing

PO Box 14392, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

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The Blessings of Jesus

Lesson Text

John 9:1–4 (AV)¹ And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth. ² And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? ³ Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.** ⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Luke 4:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,** ¹⁹ **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Introduction

In our last series of teachings, we learned to Witness Jesus as the way to God.

John 14:6 (AV)⁶ Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

1. **THE WAY** (Our Spiritual Latitude – Our Calling)
2. **THE TRUTH** (Our Spiritual Longitude – Our Deliverance)
3. **And THE LIFE** (Our Spiritual Altitude – Our Destiny)

In that series we learned *who was Jesus*. Now we want to look at *what Jesus does*.

In Luke 4:18, Jesus gives us 5 things he was anointed to do.

1. Preach the Gospel to the Poor
2. Heal the Broken Hearted
3. Deliver the Captives
4. Recover Site to the Blind
5. Set at Liberty the Bruised

Today we want to look at the first Work of Jesus, which is to Preach the Gospel to the Poor.

To preach the gospel to the poor is to not about condemning them for their wrong; but blessing them because of their condition.

- The NLT translates it to bring good news to the poor
- Isaiah 61 used the terminology “good tidings”, meaning good news or notifications.

What this preaching of the Gospel, good news, or good tidings was about blessing the poor.

Poor or poverty is not about the absence of money or things, but about the human condition.

What the poor needs is not necessarily money, stuff, or things; but a word that changes their condition. They can get the stuff today, but because of their condition, be back poor tomorrow.

To “bless” meant to fill with benefits, either as an end in itself or to make the object blessed, a source of further blessing for others. God is most often at least the understood agent of blessing in this sense, and blessing a person often amounted to calling on God to bless them.

Proverbs 10: ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

To learn the blessings of Jesus we will look at two passages today:

1. Matthew 16: ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**
2. Genesis 12:2 (AV) ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

What these two passages teach us about blessings is that through preaching or witnessing, blessings are revealed, blessings are imparted, and finally blessings are ordained.

1. The Revelation of Blessings

Matthew 16:17 (AV) ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

The first work of preaching is to present or represent Christ to the world.

Where there is no presentation, there can be no revelation.

In the previous verses, Jesus asked his disciples who was he. Some said John the Baptist, Elias, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

They were experiencing the things of God, but had no revelation of the blessings of God.

Today people are living with the gifting of God, the prosperity of God, and the protection of God; but they can't truly experience the blessings of God because they don't know God.

Before there can be a revelation, there must be a presentation.

Although Jesus had called them, walked with them, performed miracles in front them; he didn't become a blessing until he was revealed to them.

What are we presenting to the poor? Is it a presentation that can lead to revelation?

Matthew 16:16–17 (AV)¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

II. The Impartation of Blessings

Genesis 12:2 (AV)² And I will make of thee a great nation, ***and I will bless thee***, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

The next work of preaching is witnessing until the poor receive an impartation from God.

Where there is no preparation, they can be no Impartation.

Impartation here means to bestow, confer, to grant or give.

A person can want to impart or give something to you, but if you have not prepared to received it, then it won't be giving.

Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

However, to get this power, the disciples had to go and prepare for it.

Genesis 12:1 (AV)¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Acts 1:⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, **but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.**

Prepare for the impartation of blessings by going and waiting.

We must go away, get out from our comfort zone, familiar zone, and our safety zone.

Then we must wait on our blessings.

Isaiah 40:31 (AV)³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

III. The Ordination of Blessings

Genesis 12:2 (AV)² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; ***and thou shalt be a blessing***:

- First, we need a Revelation of the Blessings of Jesus
- Then we need an Impartation of the Blessings of Jesus
- And finally we must have an Ordination of the Blessings of Jesus

To Ordain is to Proclaim, Establish, Determine, and Command

Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 5:10 (AV)¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

God has Ordained us to Be A Blessings

He's Ordained us to be the Head and not the Tale, so we can lead others to blessings

He's Ordained us to Lend and not Borrow, so we can give to others a blessing

He's Ordained us Coming In and Going out, so we bless people no matter where we are.

He's Ordained our Fruit, so that our Children can be blessed

He's Ordained us in the City, so City folk can be blessed

He's Ordained us in the Field, so Country folk can be blessed

The Healing of Jesus

Lesson Text

Psalm 147:1–3 (AV)¹ Praise ye the LORD: for *it is* good to sing praises unto our God; for *it is* pleasant; *and* praise is comely. ² The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. ³ He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psalm 51:15–17 (AV)¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. ¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

1 John 4:17–18 (AV)¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Introduction

This series looks at the works of Jesus as identified in Luke 4:18

Luke 4:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,** ¹⁹ **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Today we want to look at the 2nd Work of Jesus, to Heal the Broken Hearted

When a heart has been broken, it creates wounds that makes it difficult to love again, creates conditions that makes it difficult to have joy again, and it creates fears that makes it difficult to trust and believe again.

Wounds damage the heart, Conditions change the heart, and Fears paralyze the heart; leaving the brokenhearted in state where they can no longer do an be what there're call to.

But Jesus came to Heal the Broken Hearted, and it's our Job to witness to them that with the power of Jesus they can love again, rejoice again, and believe again.

I. Healing the Wounds of the Broken Heart

Psalm 147: ³ He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

One of the most devastating issues of a broken heart is the wounds they leave behind; it damages the heart.

It is the infliction of an emotional or spiritual injury, blow, or other impact to one's heart.

The wound of a broken heart can be so devastating that it not only impacts the person who has it but those who are close to the person, and even those who come into contact with him or her.

Proverbs 18:14 (AV)¹⁴ The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity (physical wound); but a wounded spirit who can bear?

When the heart is wounded, you will find it difficult, if not impossible to rejoice. It will impact a person's ability to serve the Lord; some have even given up serving him.

Deuteronomy 10:12 (AV)¹² And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Mark 12:30 (AV)³⁰ **And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.**

The heart is broken and too wounded to serve and love.

Proverbs 15:13 (AV)¹³ A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

To Heal the Broken heart, Wounds must be Bound in the Spirit

Psalms 147: ³ He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

To bind or bound is to wrap firmly, to bandage, to fasten, to secure, to bind up.

And how does God bind us up? By wrapping us in his spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (AV)²¹ Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13 (AV)¹³ .. in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Psalms 91:4 (AV)⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

John 16:20 (AV)²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

II. Healing the Condition of the Broken Heart

Psalm 51:¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. ¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

The next issue we must deal with is the condition of a broken heart; it changes the heart. Even when wounds have had an opportunity to heal, the heart can still be in a broken condition; that is, it's state, quality, appearance, or working condition.

The heart just isn't working right, acting right, looking right.

But going through brokenness has a beneficial aspect; and that is to be rebuilt strong.

To Heal the Broken heart, Conditions must be Rebuilt in the Spirit

A broken spirit produces a contrite heart (a remorseful and repentant heart), which is something that God can work with and rebuild it even stronger.

Psalm 51:10–12 (AV)¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

How does God do this? By offering him the sacrifice of Praise

Psalm 51:¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Hebrews 13:15 (AV)¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (AV)¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Psalm 34: ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

III. Healing the Fears of the Broken Heart

1 John 4:17–18 (AV)¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

- First we must heal the Wounds of the Broken Heart, by being Bound in the Spirit
- Next we must heal the Condition of the Broken Heart, by being Rebuilt in the Spirit
- And finally, we must heal the Fears of the Broken Heart, by being Loved in the Spirit

After we've dealt with our Wounds and Conditions, we must deal with our Fear; it paralyzes the heart.

Anytime there's been a broken heart, fear sets in. Paul called it the Spirit of Fear!

We become afraid of being hurt again, afraid of how we'll react if it happens again, afraid of trying again, afraid of trusting again, afraid of hoping again, believing again, loving again.

To Heal the Broken heart, Fears must be Loved in the Spirit

1 John 4:¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love....

2 Timothy 1:7 (AV)⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:35–39 (AV)³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Deliverance of Jesus

Lesson Text

Mark 5:1–9 (AV)¹ And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: ⁴ Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, ⁷ And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. ⁸ For he said unto him, **Come out of the man, *thou unclean spirit.*** ⁹ And he asked him, **What *is thy name?*** And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many.

Matthew 12:43–45 (AV)⁴³ **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.** ⁴⁴ **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished.** ⁴⁵ **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

Introduction

We've been looking at the five works of Jesus in Luke 4:18, to be witnesses of them!

Luke 4:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,** ¹⁹ **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Today we want to look at the 3rd Work of Jesus, to Deliver the Captive.

A captive is a person who has been taken prisoner and held in confinement. As it is referenced in Luke 4:18, it takes on the meaning, Prisoner of War.

It speaks to both the persons condition (imprisoned), and why (at war).

The war we are referring to here is the spiritual war between God's people and Satan's unclean spirits; and the captivity speaks to those who have been imprisoned in the mind.

This spiritual captivity has an debilitating effect on Christians that is designed to take them out of the game, out of the battle by putting them in a cycle of captivity, and mind of captivity, and a control of captivity.

But it's time for a Jail Break, a Prison Break!

We must witness that Jesus came to deliver the captives, to get them back in fight!

I. Breaking the Cycle of Captivity

Mark 5: ⁹ And he asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

A legion during this time was a Roman army unit of 6826. This man was in captivity of nearly seven thousand unclean spirits. And it was the result of a cycle of captivity.

By cycle of captivity, I mean a life style where when and if a person gets out of a circumstance or situation, they get pulled back into it over and over again.

A cycle of poverty, a cycle of hurt, a cycle of anger, bitterness, disappointment, abuse.

The problem is not simply that we get pulled back in, it is what happens when we do.

Matthew 12: 45 (AV) ⁴⁵ **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

What Jesus is teaching us here is that 1 unclean spirit becomes 7, 7 becomes 49, 49 becomes 343, 343 becomes 2401, and pretty soon you are at legion level.

To Break the Cycle of Captivity, we must Change our Environment.

Matthew 12:44 (AV)⁴⁴ **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished (In Order).**

The environment is first Unoccupied; that is, we left a room empty and a key under the mat.

Secondly the environment is Sweet and Garnished; that is, in order and favorable for reentry.

2 Corinthians 6:¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,...

1 Peter 1:16 (AV)¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

II. Breaking the Mind of Captivity

Mark 5: ⁶ But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, ⁷ And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

This man both simultaneously worshipped and protested the presence of Jesus. His mind was split between wanting out and staying in; and it was making him crazy.

James 1:8 (AV)⁸ A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

This happens because we have two spirits in us at war against each other.

Romans 7:21–23 (AV)²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

We don't know our hearts and we can't trust our hearts!

Jeremiah 17:⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

To Break the Mind of Captivity, we must Change our Hearts.

Psalms 51:10 (AV)¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

How do we change our heart, get God to create a clean heart?

James 4:8 (AV)⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

- We must get closer to God (say yes to his will and his word)
- We must cleanse our hands (stop dabbling in sin, wash our hands of this world)
- We must purify our thoughts, emotions, and our will.

Philippians 2:5 (AV)⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

III. Breaking the Control of Captivity

Mark 5: ⁸ For he said unto him, **Come out of the man, *thou* unclean spirit.**

The Deliverance of Jesus is about Breaking out of Captivity

- **To Break the Cycle of Captivity, we must Change our Environment.**
- **To Break the Mind of Captivity, we must Change our Hearts.**
- **To Break the Control of Captivity, we must Change our Spirit.**

The final stage of our jail break from captivity is how unclean spirits controls us.

Mark 5: ⁴ Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

Unclean spirits are uncontrollable by human methods; any attempt to do so will drive you crazy.

Ephesians 6:12 (AV)¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

We must learn to Walk in the Spirit

- Galatians 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

We must learn to Pray in the Spirit

- Ephesians 6:18 (AV)¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
- Romans 8:26 (AV)²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

We must War in the Spirit

- 2 Corinthians 10:³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 (AV)⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
- Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

The Sight of Jesus

Lesson Text

John 4:5–10 (AV)⁵ Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour. ⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, **Give me to drink.** ⁸ (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) ⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

John 4:13–19 (AV)¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.** ¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸ For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.** ¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:20–24 (AV)²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. ²¹ Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

John 4:27–30 (AV)²⁷ And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? ²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, ²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? ³⁰ Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

Introduction

We've been looking at the five works of Jesus in Luke 4:18, to be witnesses of them!

Luke 4:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,* ¹⁹ *To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

Today we want to look at the 4th Work of Jesus, to Recover Sight to the Blind.

From our Lesson text we see three types of Sight that people have been blinded to:

1. The first type of Sight is Perception: The ability to see, hear, or become aware! This is about Discernment. The woman was blinded to who she was talking to!
2. The second type of Sight is Inspection: The ability to examine, review, or scrutinize! This is about Judgement. There were questions at the time about true worship!
3. The final type of Sight is Vision: The ability to see the big picture beyond what's in front of you. This is about Foresight. The disciples could not see how an entire city was about to be blessed because all they could see was the Woman.

We live in a world where people around us are blinded. They can't perceive truth, they are afraid to inspect truth, and they have no vision of the truth.

And it is our Job to get to work witnessing the truth and recover sight to the blind!

1. Recovering the Perception of Sight (Discernment)

John 4:¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, *If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

The first type of sight that people are blinded to is the Perception of Sight, or Discernment!

We live in a world where people don't perceive the true presence and essence of Jesus.

For some people it's because they have not truly met Him, for others it's because of the behavior of those who claim to know Him. But in either case, there's a misperception of Him.

John 4: ⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

To Recover Perception, we must Hear Jesus

John 4:¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

How did she perceive Jesus? She started hearing Jesus and not listening to him.

John 4:¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband:** ¹⁸ **For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.**

Jesus is working all around us, but we have to stop looking at people, stop looking things, stop looking at issues, and start hearing Jesus.

Revelation 3:22 (AV)²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Romans 10:17 (AV)¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

II. Recovering the Inspection of Sight (Judgement)

John 4:²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

The second type of sight people are blinded to is the Inspection of Sight, or Judgement!

We've allowed our contemporary nomenclature and society to make judgement a bad thing.

“Don't Judge Me!”; “Who are you to Judge?”; “You're being Judgmental”!

But Judgement or Judgmental is the ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions; to decide or give verdict. To decide after carefully weighing the evidence.

And because society has made this a bad word, we live in a world where no one inspects or makes judgements between right and wrong any more.

We have leaders that lie to our faces, and we just shrug it off as “Oh Well”; that's their opinion.

John 4: ²² **Ye worship ye know not what: ...**

Some worship money, others power, job, career, people, tribes or cliques; but they don't know

To Recover Inspection, we must Worship Jesus

But we are called to judge, called to inspect, called to know!

Matthew 7:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits.

John 8:32 (AV)³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

So how do we know the truth, get the truth, judge and inspect the truth? Through Worship!

John 4: ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

III. Recovering the Vision of Sight (Foresight)

John 4:²⁷ And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

The Sight of Jesus is about Recovering of Sight to the Blind

- **To Recover Perception, we must Hear Jesus**
- **To Recover Inspection, we must Worship Jesus**
- **To Recover Vision, we must See Jesus**

The final type of sight people are blinded to is the Vision of Sight, or Foresight!

John 4:(NLT)²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?”

The reason why these disciples and people in general don't have vision or foresight is because they are looking people, at the situation, at the circumstance; and cannot see the bigger picture.

All they could see was a woman of Samaria, a half-breed, a minority, a person who wasn't worthy. And when our eyes are on people, places, things, circumstances or situations, we have no vision.

Proverbs 29:18 (AV)¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

To Recover Vision, we must See Jesus

Instead of looking the woman, people, circumstances, or situations, we need to look at Jesus.

What was important was not who Jesus was looking at, but that fact that Jesus was looking! And why was Jesus Looking?

John 4: ²⁹ Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? ³⁰ **Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.**

We need to Stop Looking and Start Seeing:

- Stop Looking at people and start Seeing Jesus
- Stop Looking at circumstances and start Seeing Jesus
- Stop Looking at our money and start Seeing Jesus
- Stop Looking at our situations and start Seeing Jesus

1 John 3:² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Romans 4:¹⁷ ... *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Psalms 121:1 (AV)¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Questions

- **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Which of the Characters in our Lesson text do you or have you most identified with (The Woman, The Disciples, The People in the City, Jesus)? Why?
2. What is the message that we can learn from the Character you identified with?

- **Into the Bible**

1. What is the Significance of Jacob’s Well?
2. Who were the Samaritans and why did the Jews have not dealings with them?
3. What was the Mountain that the Samaritans worshiped at and why?

- **Life Application**

1. Which of the types of sight discussed in the Sermon comes naturally to you, and which type are you most challenged with?
2. Is there any person, place, things, situation, or circumstance that has blinded you to any of the sights discussed in the Sermon? What might you now do to recover your sight in the future?

The Liberty of Jesus

Lesson Text

Matthew 8:28–34 (AV)²⁸ And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. ²⁹ And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? ³⁰ And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. ³¹ So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. ³² And he said unto them, **Go**. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. ³³ And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. ³⁴ And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart out of their coasts.

Introduction

We've been looking at the five works of Jesus in Luke 4:18, to be witnesses of them!

Luke 4:18 (AV)¹⁸ **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

Today we want to look at the 5th Work of Jesus, to Set at Liberty the Bruised.

“***Bruised***” is translated from the Greek word “***Thrauo***”, which means to break in pieces, shatter. It speaks to the fact that the enemy through oppression wants to break us.

He oppresses us by crushing or burdening us with abuse of power or authority; physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The significance here is demonstrated by a condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) that many Boxers and NFL football players suffer from.

It is the repetitive brain trauma (concussions) that occurs when the brain has violent impact or collision with the skull.

Among its many symptoms are early onset dementia, memory disturbances, behavioral and personality changes, Parkinson, and speech abnormalities.

This happens because the brain doesn't heal before it is violently traumatized again, creating a bruise on top of the previous bruise. It then it happens over and over again.

The enemy uses Spiritual CTE to traumatize the soul, driving us to insanity until he breaks us.

He does this by getting us to react or respond incorrectly when we are bruised.

Those incorrect responses are Reformation (Make Improvements), Confrontation (Make Enemies), and Oppression (Make us Powerless).

But Jesus came to set at liberty them that are bruised. And when he shows up, devils have to go!

Matthew 8: ³¹ So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. ³² And he said unto them, **Go**.

2 Corinthians 3: ¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

1. Freedom from the Insanity of Reformation (Regeneration)

Matthew 8: ²⁸ And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him *two possessed with devils*, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

The first way the enemy drives us to insanity is by responding to our bruises with Reformation.

Reformation is our ability to make changes in order improve our lives or conditions. We attempt to Make Improvements!

The men in our lesson text became possessed with a Legion of devils because of Reformation.

Matthew 12:43–45 (AV) ⁴³ **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. ⁴⁴ Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. ⁴⁵ Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.** (1 brings 7, brings 49, brings 343, brings 2401, brings Legion)

Most people reform themselves by conforming to the world around them.

Romans 12: ² ***And be not conformed to this world:*** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The problem with reforming or conforming is we always reverts back to our true self. Although we have the ability to reform ourselves, we do not have the power to maintain ourselves.

We reform to fix a struggling marriage, but we revert back to fighting; reform to be happy, but revert back to dysfunction; reform from negativity, anger, and bitterness, but revert back to it.

And like these men, reforming over and over drives us to the point of insanity. Why? Because nothing ever changes; it just gets worse and worse.

To get Free from Reformation, we must experience Regeneration

Unlike reformation that conforms us to the world around us, regeneration transforms us into the will of God

Romans 12:2 (AV)² And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Reformation is something that you do, Regeneration is something that you become.

Titus 3:5 (AV)⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AV)¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II. Freedom from the Insanity of Confrontation (Inspiration)

Matthew 8:²⁸ And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, **exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.**

When reformation doesn't work, the next thing the enemy uses to drive us to insanity is responding to our bruises with Confrontation.

Confrontation is the act of confronting or opposing with defiance, conflict, or hostility. But we only Make Enemies!

The men in our lesson text become so confrontational that they were described at exceeding fierce, that is so violent that no one wanted to even come into their presence.

The primary reason for confrontation is to induce change from the other person. Most people confront and fight us because they are trying to change us. But all they do is estrange us!

The problem is that confrontation doesn't work, it simply generates more confrontation.

Galatians 6:⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Just like reformation, the more we confront, the worse things get.

To get Free from Confrontation, we must experience Inspiration

We can't change people through confrontation; but can inspire them to change themselves through inspiration.

Inspiration from the Holy Spirit doesn't change people, it changes us, so we can inspire people.

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

III. Freedom from the Insanity of Oppression (Liberation)

Matthew 8: ³¹ So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. ³² And he said unto them, **Go**. Subjugation Weak Impotent

The Liberty of Jesus is about Setting at Liberty the Bruised; that is freeing being Bruised over and over again (Spiritual CTE):

- **To get Free from Reformation, we must experience Regeneration**
- **To get Free from Confrontation, we must experience Inspiration**
- **To get Free from Oppression, we must experience Liberation**

The devil wants to break us, shatter us into pieces. And the final way he wants to do this is through Oppression. Oppression is domination, cruelty, tyranny, and persecution until we finally relent, quit trying, become depressed, give up and become weary.

Galatians 6:9 (AV)⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

To get Free from Oppression, we must experience Liberation

Matthew 8: ³¹ So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. ³² And he said unto them, **Go**.

We can no longer tolerated the devil, put up and accept the devil, we've got to tell him to GO:

- Go and Get out of our souls! (Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the World)
- Go and Get out of our minds! (The Peace of God that passes understanding shall keep us)
- Go and Get out of our calling! (I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me)
- Go and Get out of our churches and ministries! (No Weapon formed shall prosper)

Questions

- **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What your main take-away from Sunday’s Sermon?
2. What did you find most challenging, troubling, hopeful, or inspirational? Why?

- **Into the Bible**

1. The story of the possessed man dwelling in the tombs called Legion, is told in books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These are known as the Synoptic Gospels. What does that mean?
2. In Mark and Luke’s Gospel, it only mentions one possessed man, but in Matthew’s Gospel we see two possessed men. Is this a contradiction in the Gospels?

- **Life Application**

1. Which method have you typically used to handle your bruises (Reformation, Confrontation, of Oppression)?
2. How would you share with others about how to handle their bruises?

Thank You

Pastor Wil Nichols is the founder and pastor of Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ, a progressive cutting edge outreach ministry in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He is a first class husband, dedicated father, and a committed shepherd to the Body of Christ. He has a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Michigan State University, Salutatorian of his class from the Greater NC COGIC Academy, and Doctorate in Theology from St. Thomas Seminary and Christian University.

Request for information should be addressed to:

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church

PO Box 14392, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709.

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/VictoriousPraiseCOGIC/>

EMAIL: Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500