
The Writer's Inkhorn

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Continuing Reflections on the Word for Your Personal Growth in Christ

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Help Is Available



⁵ *When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

Scripture texts: Matthew 4:23-24;
Mark 2:1-5

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

*And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy (or paralysis); **and he healed them.** (Matthew 4:23-24)*

Mark 2:1-5

And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

² *And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.*

³ *And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.*

⁴ *And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

Our story takes place in Capernaum, Jesus' headquarters, so-to-speak, because Jesus' ministry was largely centered there. Capernaum was a busy seaport town on the Lake of Gennesaret, also called the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was slightly southwest of where the River Jordan flowed into the Sea of Galilee. Today, that area is part of the border between Syria and Israel.

Travel in time with me to Capernaum. To get a mental picture of where we are, it is about 14½ hours, flying time, from Chicago to Tel-a-Viv, Israel, then about another 100 miles or so by land to Capernaum. The total distance is about 6,275 miles, or slightly more than three and a half roundtrips from Chicago to Los Angeles nonstop. Try to imagine that.

If we had taken the 4:45 p.m. flight this afternoon, flying east from Chicago, via Frankfurt, Germany, we would arrive in Tel-a-Viv tomorrow at about 3:10 p.m. With a 14-day advance purchase, it would have cost us about \$1211, and we could stay a minimum of six days or a maximum of 45 days. I have long-desired to go to the Holy Land. Is there anyone who wants to go with me? In fact, even as I write this, I have just seen pictures posted on Facebook of one of our pastors from here in Chicago, Elder Edwin Walker, and some members of his congregation who are there now. I wish I had known. Oh, well.

In any case, as we leave Tel-a-Viv and arrive in Capernaum, Jesus has just returned from across the sea, where he had healed two demoniac men. Jesus is now back home, and

the word has spread. People have come from everywhere, and they have filled the house so, until there is no more room.

This is where our particular story commences – some men have come who are seeking help for their friend. The problem that these men had was three-fold:

- a) a sick friend – a paralyzed man who could not lift himself
- b) the crowded house
- c) how to get close enough to Jesus for Him to heal their friend.

Sidebar: A very important part of Bible study is that you must learn the stories, since insight and application – how the Bible fits your life today – come as a result of first knowing the stories. And many problems that you will encounter in life will be multi-faceted. In fact, most problems may be. But the complexity of the problem is not an issue when Jesus is in the house, as in *your* house. Do you have any sick friends, friends diseased by drugs or illness or who have parents who do not care about or want their children, or that have any of a myriad of other problems?

Or, are you, or is someone you know paralyzed, and cannot seem to move from where you/they are? *Fear* paralyzes, and so do *wrong relationships*. *Insufficient resources* paralyze, and so does *sickness*. *Depression* and *oppression* paralyze, and so does *sin*. Will you stay where you are, or are you telling those who know you, “Please, get me some help”? Do they *know* that Jesus is in the house to heal, to deliver, and to otherwise set free? Have you *told* them? You see, the fact of the matter is, help is available. **The question is, how far are you or your friends willing to go to get the help that you/they need?**

Does anyone live in a crowded house? While your individual houses may be crowded, if we consider the house as any house of God in America, many of them are a

far cry from being crowded. If the truth be told, many of them are nearly empty and there is no problem getting inside at all. What has happened? Is Jesus still in the house? Is He in *your* house? Is He still *healing*? Where are we *taking* our sick? The old saints used to say that the church is the saints’ hospital. Is your house, naturally so, or your house of worship, a place where people can find Jesus and be healed from whatever is troubling them?

Does anyone you know need to get closer to Jesus so that He can heal their sick friends, or their sick selves? Sometimes we are more concerned about getting closer to others than we are about getting closer to Jesus. But to be healed, we need to seek out Jesus – for our friends *and* for ourselves.

Let us continue with *this* story. Usually when you have a multi-faceted problem, the solution is not a simple one. These men had to figure out how to lift a man who could not lift himself, to get him into a house that had no more room, to get him the help that he could not otherwise get on his own. Here is the plan that these four friends of the man who was sick devised:

- a) get the man upon the roof without killing him or themselves in the process, or falling and paralyzing all of them;
- b) tear the roof off of the house (someone else's house, mind you);
- c) let the man down with cords through the roof into the midst of where Jesus was.

And so they did. While Jesus was speaking, people began to look up at all of the commotion going on, and there comes this man who is being dangled down in front of Jesus by four men who have tied him and/or his bed to some cords. And Scripture says, **"And Jesus saw their faith..."**

Jesus **saw** visible signs of the faith of those faithful and resourceful friends. And Jesus wants to *see our* faith, *our* determination.

That is what the Father and Son respond to; it is our *faith* that moves God to work on our behalf. Those men did not *see* that crowded house as an insurmountable *obstacle*. Their faith saw it only as a *temporary* delay. How do *you* see *your* problems? What do you do when you cannot get in at the door? Do you start to **think creatively**, like the old adage our parents used to say: “**There is more than one way to skin a cat, ‘scusing starting at his tail!**” Sure, life is *full* of challenges, but when Plan A doesn't work, just put Plan B into effect. You've heard it said before: “where there is a will, there is a way.”

Remember the story of the woman with the chronic blood disorder? Twelve years, out of money, and many doctors later, she turned to Jesus as her final hope. How long are you willing to wait to get help? Six years, twelve years, twenty-five years? We do not have to come to Jesus in some final act of desperation, when we have exhausted all other resources, and have nowhere else to turn. We can try Him sooner rather than later, to save ourselves some time *and* some trouble.

Parents, saints, friends, the deliverance of your loved ones from the clutches of Satan is not guaranteed to be convenient. It may take drastic measures, something as drastic as tearing the roof off of the house, so-to-speak. You may have to go to great lengths and go get that loved one and physically bring them to Jesus. It may take more prayer and fasting than you are currently doing, but **the fact is, help is available. The question is, how far are you willing to go to get them the help that they need?**

Here is a word to parents, specifically. Raising children in this millennium is quite a challenge. As a parent, you may have difficulty explaining to your child(ren) why they cannot have certain toys and paraphernalia or watch certain things on TV. You have to make a conscious choice not to expose your children to certain evil and

demonic influences, and explain to them why. Arm yourself with the knowledge that *anything* that promotes a supernatural power source other than God and the Word of God is of the devil – the master of disguise.

Open your eyes. Much stuff is not as harmless as it seems. Even things that seem like child's play such as many electronic games created by adults, can actually breed an appetite for violence, killing, destruction and bloodshed. Products which offer adventures with witches, wizards, dragons, and such magic are also of Satan, whose intents are ***never*** honorable and purely for entertainment. Ask for God's wisdom, always, even when you shop for toys and clothing for children or grandchildren, friends, nieces, and nephews. We must **all** be vigilant. **The fact is, help is available, even in the form of information. The question is, how far you willing to go to get the help that you need?**

Here is an example I just came across. I recently read an article about a particular type of doll that talks back to its owner via an internet connection. I share parts of it here:

At first glance, My Friend Cayla seems harmless. The 18" tall talking doll, who comes with a hairbrush and mirror, answers questions, tells stories, and generally responds to almost anything she's asked. She also comes with an app so you can connect to her via your phone. She's been a kids' favorite since her debut in 2014.

However, Germany is no longer quite so fond of the adorable plaything. On Friday, the Federal Network Agency, which oversees telecom-related topics, banned the doll, citing its "unauthorized wireless transmitting equipment."

"Items that conceal cameras or microphones and that are capable of transmitting a signal, and therefore can transmit data without detection, compromise people's privacy," said Jochen Homann, the agency's president. "This applies in particular

to children's toys. The Cayla doll has been banned in Germany."

The agency argues that the doll's Bluetooth connection could easily be hacked. Cayla has also gotten into trouble in the U.S. back in December 2016, with the Federal Trade Commission... The complaint stated that the dolls record conversations and send them to a company server without getting the consent of parents. (Shawn Setaro, 2.17.17)

With the not-so-subtle and increasing advancement of technology there is also an increase of the amount of trouble that wicked minds can devise. It is as Jeremiah said:

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

Via its internet connection, someone is asking the child (through the *doll*) all kinds of personal questions that the child is innocently answering and by so doing may be putting herself and her entire family at risk. We can no longer afford to grant a child's every wish without considering the consequences of their requests from all conceivable angles. Yes, it may seem like a daunting task, but help is readily available, with almost everyone everywhere having access to the internet.

How far you willing to go to get the help that you need?

Perhaps you need help of a different sort. Is something hindering you from realizing your dreams or the life goals you have set for yourself? Do you feel stuck where you are in life, and are not sure what should be your next steps? Sometimes, even when you have prayed and sought the Lord, it is still not clear to you what you should do. As John Maxwell states, "Anything worthwhile in life is all uphill." I am quite certain that no one ever told you that life would be a gravy train with biscuit wheels. You'll likely have to work

hard to get whatever you want. In the real world, people suffer, and are often paralyzed by fear, sickness, distress, or whatever; are hungry, have unfulfilled dreams, lose people they love, and work for an honest living. In the real world, life is hard sometimes, but we are never alone. God is *always* with us. Tell yourself, "**The fact is, help is available. The question is, how far am I willing to go to obtain the help that I need to do what I need to do to accomplish those dreams?**"

I dare not encourage you without leaving you with this challenge. Yes, God's help is available *to* you; but God's help is also available *through* you. Who will reach out to a young person and become a mentor? People need your help. Who will see and affirm the talents God has placed in them? They need someone who will be on their team, who will help them to become, who will spare no pains in helping them to get to Jesus.

No, the solutions are not going to be easy, but all God wants is to see your faith, your determination to help someone else, and He will help you. He will meet you at your point of need. In fact, someone just stated that "He will meet you where you are even if you are not where you are supposed to be." God is just waiting to *see* your faith and determination. And when He does, He will work on *your* behalf and on the behalf of those you love.



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