

Matthew 8: 1-11; “The Lord’s Willingness”, A Devotional prepared by Pastor Paul Rendall for the Prayer & Sharing Time, held on May 28th, 2023.

I wanted to speak to you for a few moments about our Lord’s willingness to help all those who have faith in Him. Whether you are concerned about yourself, or concerned for another person whom you love, I want you to see that Jesus is perfectly willing to hear your request and to give help to those who ask Him. Both of the men in these verses, the leper and the centurion, had saving faith. The evidence of this in the leper was that when he came to Jesus he worshiped Him. And he said – “Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean.” The evidence of this in the centurion was that he stated that he was unworthy that Jesus should come under his roof. He said that if Jesus would only speak a word, his servant would be healed.

The leper came to Him acknowledging Jesus to be God made manifest in the flesh. He had the confidence that if Jesus was willing, He could make him clean. Even so, when you have saving faith, as this man did, you should not question Christ’s ability to save you. Rather, you believe Jesus is the Son of God, and He is well able to do everything necessary to help you in your present condition. This man had this loathsome disease of leprosy. He knew himself to be impure in his flesh because of it. Wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. But he was confident that Jesus could heal him.

Even so, when you come to Jesus looking to be saved; looking for healing, or looking to be saved, you should be confident that He is able to save you to the uttermost. You have read in the Bible, or you have heard, that He is two natures in one blessed Person. He is fully God and fully man, and thus He can sympathize with your need of Him. You know that He knows that you have been defiled by the disease of sin. He understands very well the effects which sin brings to your soul. You know that He can save and heal those who are defiled with sin. And so you apply to Him. If you are wise, you will ask Him if he is willing to save you, and heal you, and cleanse you from all sins.

For you know that if He is willing, He is most certainly able to do so. What a great, great blessing is being cleansed from sin. Not only to be forgiven of all of the guilt of sin which is such a wonderful part of being justified by faith in Christ. But also of being cleansed in your heart from the defilement of sin so that your hearts is actually purified by faith in Him. This, Jesus is willing to do for you day after day when you know Him as Your Savior. 1st John 1: 8 and 9 – “If we say that we have sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all righteousness.” Do you see Jesus’ willingness to do this each and every day for you, when you find your heart defiled by sin? He is willing.

The other story of Jesus’ willingness is this centurion who came to Him pleading with Him to heal his servant. His servant was lying at his home paralyzed. And he was dreadfully tormented by his paralysis. You will notice here, once again, that Jesus was willing, not only to hear this man’s request for his servant, but He was also willing to immediately go to his house at once and heal him. Verse 7 – I will come and heal him. The centurion’s response is very wonderful. I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. He acknowledges Christ’s greatness and His glory as the God-Man. He proclaims his faith in Christ’s ability even to do the miracle at a distance, by simply speaking a word, and his servant would be healed.

I hope that you will have this kind of faith in regard to every difficult situation that you find yourself in, even situations related to those whom you love whom you want to be helped, or healed, or saved by the Lord Jesus. That you would believe that He is able to do these good things by simply speaking a word, even from where He is now, at the right hand of the Father. Jesus is able to do this and He willing always to hear the prayer of faith. I am not worthy for you to listen to me, but only speak the word and my servant will be healed. May you see, even now, just how willing Jesus is to hear your prayers and answer them in accordance with the will of the Father.

