WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS
MARK 1:40-44, HEBREWS 13:8

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.

1. WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS…REMEMBER OTHERS HAVE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE. The reality of this one story found in Mark is the sobering reality of a simple man, a real man, who for all practical purposes lived his life with a sense of hopelessness. The reality of leprosy in the days of Jesus was such that there was “no cure”. All who faced the reality of this disease lived in isolation and aloneness, because there was “no known cure” for this most horrible disease. Those who had leprosy were for all practical purposes were destined to live a most miserable life. A person with leprosy would lose all sense of feeling and even the appendages of their body would fall off. Imagine living your life, and one day the nerves are so deadened that a finger falls off your body, a thumb falls off. Yet that was the reality of the life of a person with leprosy.

You may declare that you don’t have leprosy, but in truth you life reveals an utter sense of hopelessness like this one man. While the Bible doesn’t reveal his age, or his name, no doubt he had lived with this leprosy for a long time. Maybe that is the way you are feeling in your life. You are living with something going on in your life, and for all practical reasons, you expect nothing better in life that what you are living in at the present time. Hopelessness has so gripped your life that you feel that “a meager life” is the best that you can hope for.

This man could have walked the span of the earth in his day, and there was no doctor, irregardless of how wise, intelligent that could help him. There was no medicine that he could take. No wonder many lived a life of mere depression.

2. WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS IT IMPORTANT NOT TO TRUST HUMAN REASONING. In the life of this one leper, the Bible gives little detail about what prompted him to come to before Jesus and kneel. But something inside of this man knew that Jesus was no ordinary man. All the human logic, and human reasoning in his spirit no doubt told him that no one could help, and that he was simply to settle for a life of “meager existence”. Yet, because of what he knew of Jesus, and knew about Jesus, he would not listen to human logic.

For countless numbers of lepers in his day, they would not believe in Jesus, and did not believe in Jesus, and the result they were not healed and lived a life of “mere existence” as lepers did. Yet, this one leper refused to allow the “human reasoning” in his mind prevent him from coming and kneeling before Jesus. The reality of your life before the Father may well reveal a life of hopelessness, and you feel that no one can help.

Yet, it is vitally important to trust God’s Word over and above human logic.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.
Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Sadly, the reality of countless numbers of lives this day that find themselves in “hopeless situations” they believe that no one can help them, not even Jesus, and the result is a continued life of hopelessness, despair and discouragement.

3. WHEN LIFE SEEMS HOPELESS…WE REVEAL IN THAT MOMENT WHETHER WE HAVE FAITH OR NOT. It is vitally important to get the simple yet sobering picture. Here is one man who is completely incurable from every human vantage point. There is no one on earth, except Jesus that can help him. All those he has known who are lepers no doubt have died the way they lived. But he knew by what he observed, that whenever Jesus was approached with faith, that he made every life better without exception. Jesus healed the sick of the palsy in Mt. 9:2 when he saw the faith of his friends.
Jesus healed the woman with an issue of blood in Mt. 9:22 because she had faith in Jesus. Jesus healed a man with blindness in Mark 10:52, because of his faith in Jesus. Jesus resurrected our lives from eternal death through salvation to as many as have had faith to believe.

John 1:12  But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

The divine truth of Scripture reveals that every single person that came to Jesus in true genuine faith and confidence in Him were healed and made better. While times change the truth of Scripture never changes. The Bible makes it clear in Hebrews 13:8, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

It is important to note that not every leper or every sick person was healed, not because Jesus couldn’t or wouldn’t, but because many lack faith and confidence. In your sense of hopelessness, Jesus is watching to see if you really have faith in Him, if you really trust Him. Sadly, many continue in a life of hopelessness, all because they will not bring their situation to Jesus.

4. 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 vantagepoint. 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 vantagepoint…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.

5. 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 hopeless 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 vantagepoint….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.