

## **Do the possible and witness God do the impossible**

Luke 6:6-11

“On another Sabbath he (Jesus) went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. <sup>7</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.”

Perhaps the main teaching in this passage concerns the conflict over the Sabbath. The Pharisees put the day above man; Jesus put man above the Sabbath. The Pharisees had expanded the Old Testament commandment about the Sabbath. There is an entire chapter in the Rabbinic law which deals with the regulations of the Sabbath. There was a rule for almost every possible question pertaining to Sabbath observance: how far one might walk on the Sabbath, how much weight he might lift, whether or not one might eat an egg which had been laid on the Sabbath. Jesus not only refused to observe these rules, He deliberately challenged them. His concern was to liberate man from religion which had become a burden instead of a power to sustain man.

There is another teaching of Jesus in this passage. It is a principle:

**WHEN WE DO THE POSSIBLE, GOD WILL DO THE IMPOSSIBLE**

It was impossible for the man with the shriveled hand to heal himself. But it was possible for him to get up and stand in front of ever one. Even though this may have been difficult for him to do.

Jesus asked him to get up and stand in front of every one. This was no problem for this man. His legs were in good shape. His problem was his hand. It was shriveled up – paralyzed and he could not stretch it out.

We see here that when the man got up and stood in front of every one – did the possible – then God allowed him to do the impossible and stretch out his shriveled hand. While he was lifting up his arm at the command of Jesus, his hand was healed by the Great Physician and he could stretch it out. The miracle had taken place.

Then the reaction came! Instead of praising and thanking God these Pharisees were furious and began to plot to kill Jesus.

Now let us consider the application of this principle for us today.

### **Can you forgive your sins?**

The answer is no.

### **Can you save yourself from condemnation and punishment in hell?**

The answer is no. This is impossible for you to do.

### **Can you heal yourself from sickness?**

The answer is no. Impossible!

God does not ask you to forgive your sins or save yourself because this is impossible for you to carry out.

He is asking you to do the possible in Roman 10:9 and 10

***“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”***

You confess “Jesus is Lord” and you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. Then God will do that which is impossible for you to do. Justify you and save you. Praise His wonderful Name!

Again God is asking you to do the possible in 1 John 1:8, 9 and 10

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

You do the possible - confess you are sinner – and God will do that which is impossible for you to do, forgive all your sins. Praise His wonderful Name!

### **Can you heal yourself from sickness and decease?**

The answer is no.

God is asking you to do the possible in James 5:14,  
*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

It is not so difficult and surely possible for you to call the elders of the church. It is possible for the elders to pray over you and anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. It is also possible to confess our sins to each other and to pray for each other. Then God has promised to do the impossible – heal you from your sickness and forgive your sins.

We need to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:14, *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

### **Can you save yourself from trouble?**

Often the answer is no. But God can!

Before God begins to save you from your troubles there is something you must do as explained in James 5:13,

*“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.”*

Prayer makes the difference. God answers your prayers when prayed in faith believing. God can get you out of trouble. With Him nothing is impossible.

### **Can you save others?**

Again the answer is No. We can save no one.

We cannot even save ourselves let alone others.

But God is able to save all who call on His name.

*<sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

People must believe and call on the Lord to be saved. This is certainly possible for all people and God does not discriminate against any one.

But first they must hear and that's where you and I enter the picture. We must also do the possible and go and tell people the Gospel. Our church must be willing to send people to go and bring good news of Jesus. We must be willing to give so that people can go.

Even our feet become beautiful when taking the Gospel to people God wants to save. We use our feet to go and use our mouth to bring good news. This is all possible even though it may not be easy. The God will do His work and save people.

What a privilege to be God's Ambassadors and God's fellow-workers  
As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:20...

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain."*

*In Jesus Name!*