

God is Able

By Bill Scheidler

Text: Matthew 9:27-31

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” 28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” 31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

Notice the following from this text:

1. The Two Blind Men

The blind men were in a helpless, hopeless condition. The priest had not been able to help them. Their friends had not been able to help them. They were not able to help themselves.

In the face of that, they had the testimony of the people and of history working against them.

John 9:32, *Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.*

In other words, “What you are asking is really impossible!”

The Blind Men were up against the impossible.

2. The Faith of the Two Blind Men

- In order to come after Jesus, the blind men must have believed that Jesus was the Messiah of whom Isaiah had prophesied that he would open the eyes of the blind (Is. 29:18; 35:5).

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. Isaiah 29:18

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Isaiah 35:5

- The blind men persisted in overcoming the difficulty of following Jesus. This would have been hard enough for people who could see.
- The blind men realized that they did not deserve Jesus’ attention; they came and cried for mercy.

- The blind men also believed that Jesus could actually help them and He was their only hope.
- The blind men had God-pleasing faith (Heb. 11:6).

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

3. The Question Jesus Asks

“Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

Their deliverance to a great extent had to do with how they answered this question. You would have thought that they had already proven this by coming after Jesus the way that they had, but Jesus wanted them to express their faith or confidence in words. He wanted them to express a **confession of their faith**.

4. The Reply of Jesus

“According to your faith, be it unto you!” (KJV)

Their faith was essential for their deliverance. A lack of faith can hinder the flow of God’s power (Mark 6:5). Their faith was that God is able...God is sufficient...Nothing is too difficult for God.

Three Absolute Facts

In this story we are faced with three absolute facts:

Fact #1: Man is limited and finite.

As such man is unable or incapable of delivering himself, defeating his enemies or accomplishing what God made him to do on this earth. We do not like to think of ourselves in this way, but the sooner we do the better off we will be.

Moses understood this. He declared his own weakness in Numbers 11:14, *“I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.”*

The Children of Israel understood this when they were facing the giants in Numbers 13:31, *“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”*

Solomon understood this when he became king in David’s place and was faced with an impossible challenge in I Kings 3:9, *“For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”*

The People of Judah understood this when they were trying to rebuilt the walls of the city that the enemy had destroyed in Nehemiah 4:10, *“The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.”*

All of these people discovered that man was never created to succeed on his own.

Man was created as a dependent being and when man tries to move independent of God he meets with failure.

Jesus made it clear in John 15:5 when he said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

But praise God! We do not have to live or function without God.

That leads us to fact #2.

Fact #2: God is unlimited and infinite in grace and power.

I am weak...but God is strong.

I am finite...but God is infinite.

I am limited...but God is unlimited.

I may not be able...but God is able!

God is Able...

This is what the Bible says...

- God is able to deliver from the fiery trial.

Hebrew children in the furnace (Dan. 3:15-17, 29).

“Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”
16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

Daniel in the lion’s den (Dan, 6:20-22).

And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” 21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O

king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” 23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

- God is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him (Heb. 7:25).
- God is able to forgive my sins (Luke 5:21).
- God is able to open blind eyes...impossible, never happened (Mt. 9:28).
- God is able to cleanse the leper...incurable disease (Mark 1:40).
- God is able to provide water from a rock and manna from heaven.
- God is able to keep us and that which has been entrusted to us (II Tim. 1:12).
- God is able to assist those who are tempted (Heb. 2:18).
- God is able to subdue all things to Himself (Phil. 3:20-21).
- God is able to make all grace abound to us (II Cor. 9:8).
- God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think (Eph. 3:30).

Abraham believed it and was fully convinced that “what He had promised, He was able to perform” (Rom. 4:21).

The Angel of the Lord declared it, “Is anything too hard for the Lord” (Gen. 18:14).

Jeremiah prophesied it, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You” (Jer. 32:17).

God affirms it, “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?” (Jer. 32:27).

Jesus testified it, “The things that are impossible with men are possible with God!” (Luke 18:27).

Fact #3: Without God we can do nothing...But with God great things can happen.

God does not need a lot to work with to turn a situation around.

- He created the universe out of nothing.
- He saved Israel with 300 men (Judg. 7:2, 4).

32,000 to 10,000 to 300

The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, “My own hand has saved me.”

Jonathan declared “for nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few” (I Sam. 14:6). He knew that one with God is a majority.

When we express our doubts about God’s ability to help it angers God (Ps. 78:17-25, 32-33).

But they sinned even more against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness. 18 And they tested God in their heart by asking for the food of their fancy. 19 Yes, they spoke against God: they said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” 21 Therefore the LORD heard this and was furious; so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel, 22 Because they did not believe in God, and did not trust in His salvation. 23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, and opened the doors of heaven 24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, and given them of the bread of heaven. 25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full... 32 In spite of this they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works. 33 Therefore their days He consumed in futility, and their years in fear.

Jesus rebuked the disciples in the boat when they were in His presence but were fearful of the waves.

The only things that God cannot do:

- He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18).
- He cannot deny Himself (II Tim. 2:13).
- He cannot remember sins He has forgiven (Jer. 31:34).

What happens when you put finite man together with an infinite God?

Caleb confessed “We are well able to take the land” (Num. 13:30).

David got the revelation when facing Goliath and said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (I Sam. 17:37).

Jehoshaphat discovered that no enemy no matter how great was able to withstand God. He said “O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?” (II Chr, 20:6).

Satan’s Job

Satan’s job is to get us to take the focus off of God and put it on ourselves and our problems.

His job is to convince us that God doesn’t care or there is nothing that God can do in our case.

But Satan is a liar! We will not succumb to his tactics.

We must refuse to remind God of the size of our mountains. Instead, we must remind our mountains of the size of our God.

Close

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Altar Call

Perhaps you are in a situation like those blind men. You are up against something that is bigger than you. Perhaps it is...

- A decision for which you need greater wisdom than yourself.
- A financial need that seems impossible to meet.
- A health issue that looks hopeless.
- A job situation that you have given up on.
- A spiritual battle against a life dominating sin or habit.

In any case it is something that you have not been able to handle **alone**.

God doesn't want you to handle it alone. This morning we are going to make a confession: God is Able.