

## Nothing is missing

The title of my message last week was “*Something is missing*” and today’s message is “**Nothing is missing**”. It is a continuation of what I shared last week.

Last week we looked at the story of ‘the rich young ruler’. He was a man who had just about everything in life: he was young, he had influence, status and was very rich. However, Jesus said, ‘*one thing you lack*’ – something was missing. Jesus exposed something he lacked in his life: fully trusting Jesus (with his life and his possessions). Jesus said these words: ‘*how hard it is for those who **trust** in riches to inherit the kingdom of God*’. His problem was a ‘trust problem’ not a wealth problem. He trusted the tangible, his earthly treasure, more than trusting Jesus and a ‘treasure in heaven’.

*One thing you lack*. Something was missing to the one who had just about everything: that complete trust, reliance, faith, in Jesus. Because of that he did not accept the invitation of Jesus to come and follow Him.

We live in a world that trusts primarily the tangible, those things of the ‘here and now’. Yet, one of the things that this current crisis exposed is in fact of how fragile life really is, how fragile our whole system that we trust in, is. Economic systems do fail us, health systems can come short of solutions, political systems and governments will also at some point fail and disappoint us.

We need to trust in the Rock that doesn’t move, in the God who doesn’t change and in the kingdom that cannot be shaken.

**With last week’s message in mind**, let us read **Matthew 9:1-8**

a) What a contrast with the story of the “rich young ruler”:

Unlike the “rich young ruler” who had so much going for him, this man had nothing – no health, no movement (he was paralysed), no quality of life (he lived confined to a mat). However, while Jesus saw a deficit of faith in the rich young ruler, when He came to this man and his friends, He saw faith! They had faith for the impossible!

**Verse 2** “*when Jesus saw their faith*”...

Faith is the substance of miracles and where faith is seen, power manifests! Jesus always comes looking for faith.

b) “*When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, Son **be of good cheer**; your sins are forgiven you*”

**1. Faith opens the door for joy!**

Last week we saw that the “rich, young ruler” left the presence of Jesus ‘sad because he had many possessions’. He was probably one of the few people to have ever left the presence of Jesus sad. (And most of us thought that possessions could bring joy...)

Indeed “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses” (**Luke 12:15**).

However, the paralysed man is not going to leave the presence of Jesus sad: he is going to be of **good cheer!** One left sad, the other left glad! What was the difference? Trust. Faith makes all the difference.

Faith opens the door for joy! There is a joy that comes from the expectation of faith, the anticipation of blessing, the manifestation of a miracle.

## **2. Faith makes the impossible seem easy**

**Verses 2-5** - <sup>2</sup> Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” <sup>3</sup> And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For **which is easier**, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘arise and walk’?”

Both the forgiveness of sins and the healing of that man were impossible from a natural standpoint – but not with Jesus!

Salvation was impossible without Jesus: In the story of the rich young ruler, the disciples were a bit perplexed and said: “*who then can be saved?*” to which Jesus replied, “*with men this is impossible but with God all things are possible*” (**Matthew 19:25-26**).

To Jesus, both impossibilities were *easy*! Salvation and healing are equally easy with Jesus. How we need to grow in that revelation!

## **3. Where Faith is seen, power is manifested**

**Verses 6-8** - <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” <sup>7</sup> And he arose and departed to his house. <sup>8</sup> Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

What a demonstration of power! This man left the presence of Jesus forgiven, healed and glad! He left full – nothing broken and nothing missing – because of faith.

The ‘rich young ruler’ on the other hand, left clenching his money but with something missing, with an empty heart and sorrowful.

Jesus wants you to have a complete faith, to fully trust and abide in Him. Jesus wants nothing missing in your life!

a) Power on earth

**V. 6** - *“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth”.*

This miracle was a deliberate act of Jesus so we know that He has power on earth. Heaven is a place full of power, but it is not a place full of impossibilities - Earth is. Power is needed on Earth!

b) Power to men

**V.8** - *Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.*

Outside Christ we were weak, insufficient in and of ourselves – however, God has manifested and given this power to men!

**Romans 5:6** – *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ did for the ungodly*

**Ephesians 1:19** - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*

This is ‘power on earth’, ‘power to men’ and ‘power towards us’! Faith makes way for God’s power to be manifested in our lives.

The multitudes ‘marvelled and glorified God who had given such power to men’. A life filled with the power of Jesus will glorify God, not powerlessness.

c) Power over the enemy

**10:1** - *And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*

This is ‘power on earth’, ‘power to men’, ‘power towards us’ and this is power over the enemy!

3 Greek words for ‘power:’ *Dunamis, Kratos and Exousia*. Here, the word translated from the Greek means to walk in delegated influence, jurisdiction and ability.

That sounds like a life where nothing is missing!

In the story of the “rich young ruler” he never got to experience any of this. I am sure that Jesus had so much in mind when he said, ‘*take up your cross and follow Me*’. He had joy, miracles, power!...

He never got to experience any of it because He was never able to wholeheartedly trust Jesus with His life. He had something missing, he had a ‘faith deficit’.

The “rich young ruler” was afraid of lack, he thought that he was going to miss out, so he held on to what he had. How wrong he was.

Jesus asked His disciples:

**Luke 22:35** - *And He said to them ... **did you lack anything?**” So they said, **“Nothing.”***

We can live a life where nothing is missing and nothing is lacking: no lack of hope, no lack of power, no lack of joy, no lack in any material need we may have. We are complete in Christ!

The only key to all of that is simply to trust, to surrender ourselves to Him with full assurance of faith.

The friends of the paralytic had plenty of that!

I conclusion: Remember ...

- Faith opens the door for joy
- Faith makes the impossible seem easy
- Where faith is seen, power is manifested