

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 29, 2020 by Pastor, D. Benoit

Text: Matthew 8: 1-4

Title: "Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!"

I've found *encouragement* in these lyrics,

Reach beyond the break and hold on!
Reach beyond the break and hold on!
Your rope of *Hope* is almost broke!
Your rope of *Faith* is almost broke!
Your rope of *Patience* is almost broke!

But reach, beyond the break and hold on, hold on, hold on!

Hold on and don't let go of your *Faith*!

Personally: I seen the lighting flashing.

I heard the thunder roll. I felt sin breakers dashing, trying to conquer my soul.

I heard **The Voice of JESUS**, telling me, telling me, telling me,
To still fight on.

HE told me, Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!

And don't let go of your *Faith*!

(Rev. Clay Evans & The Fellowship Baptist Church Choir)

Nelson's BIBLE Dictionary defines *Faith* as a belief *in* or confident attitude *in* **GOD**, involving commitment to **HIS WORD, Will and Way**, for one's Life. Nelson also says *Belief* is to place one's trust *in* **GOD'S Truth**. A person who *Believes* is one who takes **GOD at HIS WORD** and *Trust in HIM* for *Salvation*.

I too, am reminded day by day, about 'this year of 2020', but this is not 'the whole of my memory'... (What do you remember, your **Faith in GOD**, has done for you???)

This text, Matthew 8: 1-4, places me, among a 'multitude following **HIM**.' (v. 1).

The *Leper*, the most unclean and defiled of persons, is clearly seen (I too came to know was me). (v. 2)

BUT, **The LORD JESUS** (v. 3), and, v. 4, 'the cleansed man' (that is, me!) ... I remembered stretching my *Faith in JESUS*...

"Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!"

How bad was it? *Leprosy*, was, is, the most terrible disease. *Leprosy*, was greatly feared. *Leprosy* disfigured you. *Leprosy* was, is, fatal. **The BIBLE** says *Leprosy* is a *type* of *sin*. The *Leper* him or herself was considered utterly unclean—*physically* and *spiritually*. The *Leper* could not approach within six feet of any person including family members. "His or her clothes shall be rent, and his or her head bare, and he or she shall put a covering upon their upper lip, and shall cry, 'Unclean, unclean.'" (Leviticus 13: 45)

The *Leper* was judged *dead—the living dead*. He or she had to wear a black garment so they could be recognized as being among the *dead*. The *Leper* was banished as an outcast, totally ostracized from society—earthly and heavenly. He or she could not live within the walls of any City; their dwelling had to be outside the City gates. The *Leper* was thought to be polluted, incurable by any human means whatsoever.

He or she could be cured by **GOD** and **HIS Power alone!**

Imagine the anguish and heartbreak of the *Leper*, being completely cut off from family and friends and society. Imagine the emotional and mental pain.

“Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!”

This is the first recorded *healing miracle* performed by **JESUS** in Matthew’ account. *Teaching* two truths... 1. **JESUS is GOD** and possess **GOD’S Power**. 2. **JESUS is MESSIAH, The SAVIOR** of the world. **HE** not only pronounced the *Leper* cured, as did the Priest, **JESUS cleansed** the *Leper*. **JESUS** takes the *Leper sin* away. **JESUS cleanses** thoroughly and completely.

[Note: When **GOD** hears our request to *heal* us, do consider, it’s for, 1. **GOD’S Glory**.

We must ask, would granting the request to *be healed*, bring the greatest **Glory to GOD’S NAME?** 2. Is it for our good, not only physically, but *spiritually*. What particular spiritual *grace* or quality shall I learn? Endurance; *The SPIRIT of GOD*-controlling me; Trust; Dependence in **GOD alone?** *Spiritually, within* ourselves or *Spiritually without* ourselves. 3. **GOD’S Wisdom**. **HE** *knows* what is needed by whom; *when* it is needed; for *whom* it is needed; *where* it is needed; *how* it is needed; *why* it is needed. 4. **GOD’S Mercy**. **GOD Wills** above all else for us to *know HIS Mercy*.]

“Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!”

No matter what we are presently experiencing, *See, The LORD JESUS—Compassion and Salvation!* **JESUS’ Sight of the Leper (me) gripped HIS Heart**. The *Leper* condition was wretched, physically and *spiritually*: full of sores/*sin*; flesh eaten away/*mentally*; full of loneliness/*alone*; desperate/*alienated*; empty/*helpless*...

BUT **JESUS “touched”** the *Leper*. Notice, before saying a word, **JESUS** reached out for the *Leper*: **HE** “put forth **HIS Hand**, and *touched* him.” When no one else would, **JESUS** reached out for the most defiled. How long had it been since anyone had *touched* him? Weeks? Months? Years?

JESUS said, “**I Will**.” As to the *Leper*, these **WORDS** meant: **JESUS** was not willing even for the most defiled to perish! **JESUS** did not have to be urged to help the most defiled. The most defiled simply had to approach **JESUS** with a sincere heart! **JESUS** did not have to be paid to help the most defiled. The *Leper* did nothing but come to **JESUS**, *believing* that **JESUS** would cleanse him.

“Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!”

JESUS cleanses *in* and *out*! The *Leper* had acknowledged **JESUS' Power**. Now he received that *Power*: he was cleansed physically and *spiritually*. **JESUS** cleansed the *Leper*, immediately. HE did not hesitate; there was no waiting. The *Leper* meant business *with JESUS*; he genuinely wanted to be cleansed. **JESUS** knew his sincerity, so **HE** cleansed him immediately. The idea is that **JESUS** cleansed him *through* and *through*.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit **The KINGdom of GOD**? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, not abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, not covetous, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit **The KINGdom of GOD**. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in **The Name of The LORD JESUS**, and by **The SPIRIT of our GOD**.” (I Corinthians 6: 9-11)

“Reach Beyond The Break and Hold On!”

JESUS touch is enormous—**HE** has **Power** to cleanse *sin*... Matthew 8: 3

JESUS touch is enormous—**HE** has **Power** to give *sight* to the blind... Matthew 9: 29-30

JESUS touch is enormous—**HE** has **Power** to *bless*... Mark 10: 13, 16

JESUS touch is enormous—**HE** has **Power** to *heal*... Mark 7: 33, 35

BUT above all, **JESUS touch is enormous**—**HE** has **Power** to *save*... Matthew 1: 21; Acts 4: 12

Reach beyond the break and hold on!
Reach beyond the break and hold on!
Your rope of *Hope* is almost broke!
Your rope of *Faith* is almost broke!
Your rope of *Patience* is almost broke!

Hear **JESUS** saying,
Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!
And don't let go of your *Faith*!

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