

Section 5: Conclusion

Lesson 13: God's Abounding Grace for Broken People

Introduction

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible," (Matthew 19:26).

Throughout this book, our goal has been to discover the beautiful design for marriage and the family which God has set forth in his Word. We have repeatedly endeavored to ask the same broad question: *According to the Bible, what is God's good, holy, and wise will for my life as a spouse and as a parent?* In trying to answer this important question, we have considered: *God's good purposes for marriage (Ch. 1), God's good pattern for marriage (Ch. 2-5), God's good safeguards for marriage (Ch. 6-8), and God's good pattern for parenting (Ch. 9-12).* Through the lens of holy Scripture, we have been invited to see how altogether superior God's design for marriage and the family truly are. The world simply cannot hold a candle to the light of God's wisdom for us. But, by spending all this time consistently striving to gaze upon the perfect standard which God sets forth in his Word, we have also come to see something else, haven't we? Surely along this journey, we have all had our failures exposed and our hearts laid bare. Each of us has undoubtedly seen something—*if not many somethings!*—of just how far we have fallen short of the callings which God has given to us.

So, how have you responded to that exposure? When the light of holiness has shone into your heart and life through this study, what has been your response? Perhaps you have responded with over-confidence by thinking that you are actually up for the task? Maybe you are undaunted by the tall-order of this calling and actually think you have it within yourself to achieve the holy and good things which we have considered (Ex. 24:3; Prov. 16:18). If that is the case, then for you, perhaps the most important part of the verse quoted above is the first portion: *"With man this is impossible..."* While Jesus is specifically speaking about the call to trust and honor God with our finances in these words, his point applies much more broadly. The righteous life that God has called us to live—*whether in finances, marriage, parenting, or any other category*—is a life that we have not only *failed* to live, but also a life that we *cannot* live in our own strength. Our response to the exhortations given in this book should not echo Peter's pride when he said, *"Though they all fall away...I will never fall away,"* (Matt. 26:33). We all know how that posture of heart turned out for the Apostle (Matt. 26:75). The truth is, you could never achieve the standard of holiness to which God has called us because you are just like the rest of us: a weak and pitiable sinner in need of great grace. Your *"spirit"* may *"indeed be willing,"* but even with the best intentions and under the most favorable circumstances, *"the flesh is weak,"* (Mk. 14:38).

But my hunch is that, most of us have not responded to this study with inflated confidence and self-assurance. It is much more likely that after looking at the high standard of God's calling for us, we may be tempted to respond with despair. We may be tempted to respond just as the disciples did after Jesus articulated the real standard of the Christian life to them: *"Who then can be saved?"* (Matt. 19:25). Maybe the spirit of that question resonates at some level with your own response to this book: *Who then can be a faithful spouse? Who then can be a faithful parent? How on earth could I ever live up to God's calling for my marriage and family?* Maybe your temptation to despair arises from past mistakes which now seem unable to be rectified and redeemed. There is a deep sorrow that fills the heart when we look back on mistakes made in the past, and taste the bitter fruit they now bear in the present. But perhaps for others it is not *the past* that troubles them. Maybe as we have looked into God's Word it has become all too clear that there are patterns of brokenness taking place in your home *right now* that need to change. And yet, when you consider how to apply these lessons, you fear that those broken patterns are too entrenched to be overcome, too unruly to be tamed, and too mighty for you to conquer. Or maybe you are tempted to despair because you simply look at yourself and think, *"I could never be the kind of spouse and parent that has been described in Scripture. I am too broken and too damaged from the frustrations and sorrows of my wayward life."*

All of this is why we **must** close out our study by remembering the overflowing mercy, steadfast love, and abounding grace of God for broken people like us (I Tim. 1:14-15). We need to soberly acknowledge that what Jesus said is true: *"With man this*

is impossible,” (Matt. 19:26). We *have not* and *cannot* live up to the calling we have received as husbands, wives, and parents on our own. Nor do we have the power within ourselves to fully rectify the damage done from past mistakes. And yet, by faith, we must also remember that *“with God all things are possible.”* Whatever degree of brokenness you may be experiencing within your marriage and/or family is not beyond the redeeming grace of your God. It is true that we cannot do it on our own. But it is also blessedly true that no sin is too great for the conquering power of our Savior. So let us conclude this journey not by looking to ourselves, but rather by fixing our eyes on Christ, who has come to rescue and to redeem the lost, (Lk. 19:10). Let us carefully consider together how his saving power should comfort and encourage our weary souls as we earnestly press on toward the call to be faithful to God in our marriages and in our families, (II Pet. 1:3-5).

Jesus Christ Is Able To Heal Your Brokenness & Sustain Your Weary Soul

In Mark chapter five, we see the compassion and power of Jesus Christ for helpless sinners on full display. Not once, nor even twice, but on three separate times, we behold demonstrations of both his willingness to enter into the sorrows of the failing and his almighty power to actually provide the help they need. We will be using the whole fifth chapter of Mark’s gospel as the fountain of living water from which we may draw soul-strengthening encouragement for our marriages and families, (Deut. 8:3). In that chapter, we will see three scenes in which Jesus answers the great question of our hearts: *God, can you actually help someone whose marriage and/or family is as broken and tattered as mine?* In each case, Jesus will show us that he is the Savior who is able to rescue and redeem even the most severely broken—*whether they are ensnared in extreme violence and depravity (Mk. 5:1-20), or in hidden, long-standing sorrows and pains which nothing else has been able to cure (Mk. 5:25-34), or in situations in which all hope seems utterly lost (Mk. 5:21-24, 35-43).* At every point Jesus will prove himself to be *“the God who raises the dead,”* (II Cor. 1:9). And therefore, he is the Savior upon whom we must *“set our hope”* as we press on in the fight of faith for our marriages and our families, (II Cor. 1:10).

1. The Demon Possessed Man (Mark 5:1-20)

The demon-possessed man in Mark five is a picture of a life wrecked by sin. This fearsome outcast is described to us as a man whose life was utterly overwhelmed with anger, violence, depression, and rage. Great outbursts of wrath had poured out from him, yielding untold devastations. They are not mentioned, but surely we should ask: *Where are his friends? Where is his mother and father? Where are those who should be caring for him and offering help?* Surely the answer is that the rage of his lips and life had wrecked the relationships he once enjoyed. Such was the vehement temper of his angry heart that it is said, *“No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones,”* (Mk. 5:4-5). Perhaps you might say, *“Yes, but it was not his fault! It was the Devil who made him do it! He was demon-possessed.”* To this, I would reply, no, you are quite mistaken, my friend. It surely was the Devil who enticed him to indulge the evil desires of his heart, but it was his own will and desire which led him to sin, (Jm. 1:14-15).

Sadly, many marriages and families can be described similarly to the life of this man. In far too many cases, the seeds of anger, resentment, and bitterness were scattered abroad and allowed to grow. Over time, those seeds put down their gnarly roots until they began to bear the poisonous fruits of hateful speech, cutting words, critical spirits, and complaining hearts. Worse still, when those early fruits are allowed to remain on the vine, they eventually bring forth a rotting stench which adds further aggravations to the atmosphere of sorrow. Outbursts of rage become engrained patterns in the home. Acts of violence get excused and explained away. Little by little, the marriage and family are taken hostage, and the hope of things ever being different fades more and more each day.

Sometimes these things take place between husband and wife. Other times between parents and children, or from sibling to sibling. Sadly, sometimes this occurs between all of these parties. But regardless of the causes, the outcome is always the same. Hearts, hopes, and homes become broken by the sinful anger of the heart, which is poured forth through fierce words and angry fists. Perhaps you have experienced the destructive power of an angry marriage or an angry family life firsthand. And perhaps your heart feels as though it is *‘living among the tombs,’* hopelessly trapped and unable to overcome the sorrows that you

face. Perhaps you are the one with the anger problem, having failed countless times to control your frustration as you should. Or perhaps you are the one who wonders if you can ever forgive your spouse or child for the angry things they have done to you. In any case, there is reason for us to have hope as we face the troubles before us.

Look with me at what happened to this angry man—*whom no one could subdue and no one could deliver*—when Jesus Christ came into his life. It did not matter in the least how great was this man's rage, how long-standing were his patterns of sinful behavior, or how many demons occupied his heart. Before the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of heaven and earth, the angry man came kneeling down low and begging for mercy, (Mk. 5:6). Before the Lord Jesus, even a whole "*legion*" of fallen angels held no power or sway, (Mk. 5:9). As Martin Luther famously wrote in his hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God: "*The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.*" Just as Luther wrote, it was a single statement proceeding from the mouth of the Messiah which immediately calmed the angry heart, cast out the whole army of devils who oppressed him, and set this man's life on a completely new course. "*One little word*" from the lips of our Lord is able to overcome what nothing else on earth could remedy or rectify.

Dear Christian, if even the demons know that they have no power by which to resist the will of God, how much more should we who believe upon the Lord Jesus, who have been chosen by his grace, and who are called the children of his love take courage that he is able to rescue us from our own sins and redeem us from the brokenness of our marriages and families? No alcoholism, anger, or abuse is stronger than the mighty hand of God. However, we need to be careful and clear here. There is no promise that what happened for the demon-possessed man will also take place in your home. But what we do have is the promise that God is with us in the struggle (Dan. 3:24-25), and that God is more than able to help us in all our sorrows (I Sam. 14:6). The home that has been wrecked by the sins of anger or alcoholism, is a home that, with the help of Jesus Christ, can be delivered from the tombs of sorrow and, instead, become a sanctuary of compassion and peace. Our calling is to trust Christ in the midst of the brokenness we face, repent of the sins we have committed, cry out to God for his powerful help, and strive to conform to his will in the way we love our spouse and children, (Matt. 11:28-30).

Look with me at how the story of the (formerly) demon-possessed man ends. After being delivered by the power of Christ from his former condition, Jesus said to him: "*Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you,*" (Mk. 5:19). God turned him from a monster into a missionary; from an angry outcast to a zealous evangelist. The very "*home,*" "*friendships,*" and family which had formerly been broken by his sin were now being restored and made whole by God's redeeming grace. Dear struggling saint, this man's story can be your story as well. Your Savior is able to heal the home that has been shattered by anger and instead make it a home of Christ-centered joy and peace. We must trust God for this desired end, plead before his throne of grace for his merciful intervention, and continue to strive by faith to walk according to his pattern for our marriage and parenting as we wait upon his will, (Heb. 4:15-16).

2. The Bleeding Woman (Mark 5:25-34)

While the issues of intense anger, violence, and other outburst behaviors are real issues that need real grace, those characteristics are not descriptive of every kind of struggle which can plague a marriage and family. There are other types of pains which lie hidden beneath the surface, much like the sorrow experienced by the bleeding woman in Mark 5:25-34. We do not know her name, her story, or why she developed these symptoms. But we know at least something of her sorrow. It was likely a quiet sadness that could only be noticed when you looked into her eyes. For twelve long years she had faced a bleeding in her body that would not heal. In Jewish culture this condition made her "*unclean*" (Lev. 15:25). But it seems by her actions of pressing through the crowd that she attempted to keep her ailment a secret. Otherwise she would not have been permitted to mingle among the people. We are told that in her desperate effort to find healing, she had seen everyone, tried everything, and "*spent all she had,*" (Mk. 5:26). Even still, after every earthly medicine had been exhausted, we are told that she "*was no better, but rather only grew worse.*" Where the struggles of the demon-possessed man presented themselves in loud and intense outbursts, the suffering of this woman was more of a slow, quiet, throbbing pain of

heart that eroded her spirit little by little each day. She must have felt as though she was hanging on by a fraying thread and that no one could understand what she faced.

Perhaps you know something of this kind of deep, hidden, and long-standing sorrow in your marriage or family? Sadly, the scene is all too familiar. A marriage or family seems picture-perfect on the outside, yet hides a bleeding wound within. Beneath the shiny exterior is a shameful secret despair; a longing or emptiness that weighs down upon the heart with crushing force. But almost no one else knows about this veiled wound, because you are too ashamed or embarrassed to tell them. You feel “unclean” for having such a struggle to begin with. And so you practice hard to keep the smile pasted on your face and to keep pretending that all is well. But beneath the surface is a slow erosion of your joy, fulfillment, peace, and hope.

There is a great variety of marital and familial dysfunction that can cause this kind of secret pain. Perhaps the love of the marriage has grown cold, and loneliness has set in. Perhaps a secret adultery has been discovered but not disclosed, in order to avoid the public shame and embarrassment. Perhaps the behavior of a difficult child has robbed the joy of the home and turned the environment into an atmosphere of almost constant negativity. Perhaps stress from work-life, or tensions with in-laws, or being unequally yoked spiritually has caused great canyons to form between the heart of the husband and the heart of the wife. Whatever the case, this hidden sorrow continues to pour out from your heart just as the woman’s issue of blood.

Moreover, perhaps you can relate to this woman’s pain in other ways as well. Maybe, just like her, you have sought every remedy the world has to offer. Perhaps you have read books, hired counselors, and confided in friends. Perhaps you have spent much in terms of time, money, and emotions trying to psychologize your troubles, or to medicate them with alcohol or self-indulgence, or even to drown them out with vain earthly pleasures. And yet, despite your best efforts to find *something* that will help the pain go away, just like the woman in our text, you find yourself no better, but only worse. The quiet and hidden pain of the years continues to persist, boring down ever-deeper into your heart, and no end seems to be in sight.

Yet, although nothing that this world had to offer was able to bring the woman healing, we are told that “*she had heard reports about Jesus,*” (Mk. 5:27). This woman heard of one who was able to bring healing where no other medicines could; one who could bring restoration where the brokenness and despair seemed to run too deep. And so, perhaps as a last breath of hope, in an act of utter desperation, she “*came up behind [Jesus] in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said [to herself], ‘If I touch even his garments, I will be made well,’*” (Mk. 5:27-28). And do you know what happened for this woman when she finally took her pain to Christ? When, by faith, she was emptied of all hope in finding the help she needed from the things of this world and, at last, looked to God, the text tells us, “*immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease,*” (Mk. 5:29). Beloved, this is the power of God for weary, wounded, and weak sinners like us.

You may feel that your marriage or family is suffering an incurable wound. You may feel that nothing you have ever tried has helped, and that the weight of the years of sorrow is just too much to bear. You may feel that the problems of your marriage or family are utterly insurmountable, and that nothing could ever bring real change. But I urge you, dear brother or sister, to reach out to Christ today, by the hand of faith, and to ask him to bring you the healing that nothing else in this world could ever bring. Jesus Christ is able to cure the incurable, to cleanse the unclean, to rescue the ruined, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to restore those who feel that their lives are irreparable and beyond all hope. No marriage or family is too broken for our God to rescue if it should be his will to do so.

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness,” (Lam. 3:21-23).

3. The Raising of Jairus's Daughter (Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

But perhaps by this point in the chapter, you are beginning to hear a voice in the back of your head say, *"But I did call out to Jesus! I did try to seek him! And my problems haven't gone away."* Or maybe you would even say, *"...and my marriage still failed."* Or, *"...and my child still walked away from the faith."* Dear one, if that is your situation, there is a father in Mark five who can relate to your pain. If you were paying close attention, you might have noticed that we skipped over a couple of verses when we considered the situation of the bleeding woman. Just before her story begins, we read these words in Mark 5:21-23:

"And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeking him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.'"

It would seem that this man did everything right. He went to Jesus in faith. He cried out for help. He didn't trust in himself or in this world. Instead, he put his whole hope in God. And yet, as the text later tells us, while Jesus was busy granting healing to others, the man's daughter died. *Think about that.* While other people were being helped and finding restoration from the Lord, this man seemed to have been overlooked by Christ and left to his sorrow. In fact, it was as Jesus was finishing his interaction with the bleeding woman that someone from Jairus' house came and said, *"Your daughter is dead,"* (Mk. 5:35).

No human language can fully describe how those words must have pierced the heart of this father. Surely they were as dreadful to his soul as the words of some marriages when, in bitterness and anger, one spouse has said to another, *"I hate being married to you. I want a divorce."* Or when a child has said to their parents, *"I don't believe in Jesus. I am walking away from the church."* Moreover, by all appearances, this father's situation was much worse than that of the other situations we have considered. In the case of the demon-possessed man and the bleeding woman, the person was in serious peril to be sure, but at least they were still alive. This man's daughter was no longer suffering and fighting for life, she was now *dead*. Humanly speaking, this thing was over. It was a done deal. Hope not only now seemed lost, it seemed foolish and naive.

Maybe this is how you feel about the mistakes you made with your children twenty or even thirty years ago, or even just last week? Or maybe you look back on a failed marriage and think, *"Redemption and restoration could never be possible for that situation."* Just think about the flurry of questions that must have filled this father's heart? *"Why didn't you come sooner, Jesus? Why didn't you heal my daughter? I just watched you heal others, why didn't you help me? I called out to you! I trusted you! And still my daughter is dead..."* Perhaps you can relate to experiencing these sorts of questions toward God in your own life: *"Why didn't you save my marriage, Lord? Why didn't you stop my child from making that choice? Why didn't you answer my prayers when I sought you?"* But look with me now at how Jesus responds to the broken and despairing heart of Jairus.

One of Jairus's servants had come and said, *"Your daughter is dead..."* but, *"Overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe,'"* (Mk. 5:36). In this moment, Jesus taught us that faith is always in order, and faith is always the right response. Our first instinct might be to say: *"How can I not be afraid? She is dead! It's over. You were too late. Now I have lost her."* But even when, according to every human measure and every human instinct, all hope seems lost, we are called to put our fears away and to trust in the Lord. No matter how broken your marriage or family may be, or how long 'dead' the situation may feel in your eyes, our God is ever-able to rescue and to redeem. God's timing may not be our timing, and God's ways may not be our ways, but the Lord our God is ever-faithful to his people and never fails to do unto them that which is perfect and holy when measured by eternity (Isa. 55:8-9; Ecc. 3:11).

As Jesus led this fearful father back to the house where the dead body of his daughter lay, he told the people outside, *"The child is not dead but sleeping,"* (Mk. 5:39). Do you know how they responded? *"They laughed at him,"* (Mk. 5:40). Many people will mock your faith when you hold fast to God even when all visible appearances of hope seem lost in the eyes of others. But despite all their jeers and taunts, Jesus walked into that house of sorrow and turned it into a house of joy. The Lord Jesus

Christ gave the voice of command saying, “*‘Talitha cumi,’ which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you arise.’ And immediately the girl got up and began walking...and they were immediately overcome with amazement,*” (Mk. 5:41).

Dear one, you may have cried out to God for your marriage or family in the past, and sadly, things continued to deteriorate. In a manner of speaking, you may feel that all hope for your marriage (or past marriage), and all hope for your child seems as “dead” as Jairus’s daughter was. But let me remind you that your Savior’s timing is always perfect, and that your Savior has the power even to raise the dead, (Gen. 22:11-14; Rom. 4:20-21). There is hope for your marriage and family—even if your situation seems beyond all repair—because your God is the almighty, all-merciful, and sovereign ruler of all, (Rom. 8:28). As we consider the call to be faithful husbands, wives, and parents, and as we consider how far short of this calling we each fall every day, Jesus would say even to our fearful hearts: “*Do not fear, only believe,*” (Mk. 5:36). We must go on trusting in our Savior. We must hide the guilt of our failings in his inexhaustible mercy, (Ps. 103:10-13). We must look to his strength to move the mountains before us that seem impossible to overcome, (Isa. 40:31). We must trust that he is the God who can rescue and redeem our marriages from whatever trials and troubles may assail them because he is the God who abounds in grace for broken people like us, (Ps. 103:8).

Conclusion: Our Savior Is Both *Willing* & *Able*

There are two paramount questions that we must answer if we would find hope for the brokenness of our marriages and families: *Is the Lord Jesus Christ willing to help someone as broken and sinful as me? And Is the Lord Jesus able to help someone whose problems and pains run as deeply as mine?* If God is *willing*, but not *able*, he can offer us nothing more than sympathy. And if God is *able* but not *willing*, then we are left without hope. But if God is both *willing* and *able* to be the merciful rescuer and redeemer of broken and sinful people like ourselves, then we have reason for hope at every hour and in every sorrow. The good news is that the gospels abundantly reveal to us the loving Father who sent his Son, and the obedient Son who willingly took on flesh in order to pour out the abounding grace of God for broken people like us.

Our Savior is Willing To Help

In Matthew eight, we meet a man who was a leper—an “*unclean*” outcast of society who was shunned by all. But although there was no known cure for leprosy, and therefore no human reason for hope, through faith, this man sought after Jesus. Once he drew near to Christ, he fell down on his knees before him, and said: “*If you are willing, you can make me clean,*” (Matt. 8:2). Without any hesitation, Jesus responded to that man by saying: “*I am willing; be clean,*” (Matt. 8:3). And yet, Jesus did more for that leper than merely *speak words* of restoration. In overflowing compassion, and clearly communicating the love of God even for the most “*unclean*,” Jesus reached out his hand and “*touched*” the leper even as he healed him. Why did Jesus do that? Other miracles show us that touch was not a critical part of the exercise of Jesus’ power. He could have healed the man from a distance if he wanted to. But, in perfect divine love, Jesus desired for that man to know not only the restoration of his body through God’s power, but also the restoration of his heart through the tender embrace of the God of all grace, (II Cor. 1:3-4).

Dear ones, this is the heart of Christ for the broken and failing. You may feel as though you are too dirty, too broken, and too shameful for God to be willing to embrace you with his pardoning mercy and healing love. But this is why the Word of God was given to us. So that we might see the heart of the Father displayed in the perfection of the Son, (Jn. 14:9). Jesus was not only answering the question of his *willingness* with respect to the leper. He was teaching a sin-sick and weary world that he is read to receive all who come to him by faith, and that he is willing to embrace us even when we are filthy from our failings, (Jn. 6:37). But as we mentioned, *willingness*, while important, is only *part* of the need of sinners, isn’t it? We also need to know that God is actually *able* to help us. We need to know that our God has the power to overcome the weight of our failings and to heal the dreadful results they have yielded upon the heart of our spouse or upon the hearts of our children. Once again, the Scriptures were given to us, God’s beloved people, in order to bring us this very soul-strengthening comfort, (Rom. 15:4).

Our Savior Is Able To Help

In Mark nine, we meet a father who is desperate for his demon-possessed child to be healed. As the father speaks with Jesus, he says to him, *“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us,”* (Mk. 9:22). If you pay close attention, you will realize that the father’s words reveal his doubt. He is looking to Jesus because he has at least *some* hope that Jesus might be able to help. *But his words reveal that, deep down, he is not sure that Jesus actually has the power to overcome the troubles he is facing.* Perhaps he thinks that Jesus is able to help with lesser cases, or smaller troubles. But, at some level, he feels that his unique situation may simply be too much for Jesus.

I wonder if this is how you think about the brokenness in your marriage or family? Perhaps you think, surely God is able to help others because their dysfunction is not as extreme, or their problems are not as long-standing. But in your heart of hearts you really don’t know if God could *actually* help the situation *you* are facing. *But once again, Jesus’ reply to this man was not only given for his sake, but also for ours.* Jesus used this occasion to teach us once for all that he is not only the God who is willing, but also the God who is able to rescue and redeem even the most broken situations and most dire circumstances.

Looking back at the father, Jesus challenged his doubt saying, *“If you can?!”* The first words of Jesus’ reply were intended to confront the lack of faith in the father’s heart and call him to much greater trust in Christ. Jesus was not condemning the weakness of his faith, but rather summoning him to a far greater view of God’s power and ability than the man presently held. Perhaps we need to be challenged by Jesus’ question with respect to our own marriages and families as well? But we also need to hear the rest of our Savior’s reply: *“All things are possible for the one who believes,”* (Mk. 9:23). I wonder if you really believe that about your situation right now? Do you believe that all things are possible in God’s hands—including the redemption of the brokenness in your life? Do you actually believe that God is able to rescue and redeem the painful things you have faced in your marriage and family? Beloved, just as surely as Jesus went on to heal the little boy and give him back to his father whole, healthy, and restored, so Jesus is more than able to heal your brokenness and bring joy and hope back to your heart and home.

Our calling is to trust God’s wisdom and earnestly strive to walk in obedience to his will within our marriages and families. But the only way any of us can truly run the race set before us, is by fixing our eyes on Christ, and continually resting our souls in God’s abounding grace for broken people, (Heb. 12:1-2).

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand,” (Isaiah. 41:10).