

## Good Faith – Steve Rozema

- A moment in Jesus' life that reveals two keys to living in the supernatural power of God:
  - **Matthew 12:9-13** Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.) And he answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the other one!

### *People over power*

- Pharisees were concerned about their power over people
- Key 1: **People over power**
- God's power has a purpose
  - **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
  - **Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- We need power *and* purpose
  - When we try to do the work of God without the power of God, we will compromise on either his calling or on our character
  - If you can accomplish your mission without God's power, your mission is too small; if you pursue God's power outside of his mission, your power is pointless
- Nearly every time the Bible talks about the power of God at work in people, it is surrounded by admonitions for putting people first
  - **Romans 12:6-8** lists spiritual gifts, **Romans 12:3-4** is about humility and unity, **Romans 12:9-21** is about love and forgiveness
  - **1 Corinthians 12:4-10** lists spiritual gifts, **1 Corinthians 12:11-31** is about unity and honor, **1 Corinthians 13** is about love
  - **Ephesians 4:7-13** is about spiritual functions, **Ephesians 4:1-6** is about humility and unity, **Ephesians 4:14-32** is about integrity and unity
  - **Ephesians 3:17-19** is God's love for people, *then* **Ephesians 3:20** Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

- Many of Jesus' miracles are initiated by compassion
  - **Mark 1:40-42** A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed.
  - **Matthew 9:35-36** Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
  - **Matthew 14:14** Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
- People are not projects

### *Faith over effort*

- The Pharisees were not concerned with the person, but hung up on Sabbath rules
  - Breaking the Sabbath was a big deal, and Sabbath is a practice still biblical and relevant today
  - The Pharisees turned this thing designed to build our faith in God into a burdensome rule
- Look at the words used:
  - v10 "heal" – Greek *therapeuō*, where we get "therapy," usually "heal" but can be translated "serve"
  - v13 "do good" – Greek *kalōs*, "rightly," "excellently," "honorably"
    - Jesus could heal on the Sabbath because to him, it wasn't work
- Key 2: **Faith over effort**
  - Effort is when you act in order to accomplish something
  - Faith is when you act because something has already been accomplished
    - **Hebrews 11:1** "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see."
  - Jesus is practicing Sabbath more than the Pharisees are: trusting in God's power rather than his performance
  - God always provides the means to accomplish the mission
- God never intended walking in the Spirit to be burdensome
  - **Matthew 11:29-30** "Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."
    - When we're yoked to Jesus, we don't have to earn something: it's not about what we can do, but who we belong to
  - **Galatians 3:3-5** How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it?!

ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

### *Closing*

- What is “the message you heard about Christ”
  - **Matthew 12:14-21** Then the Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus. But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them, but he warned them not to reveal who he was. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him: “Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen. He is my Beloved, who pleases me. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not fight or shout or raise his voice in public. He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally he will cause justice to be victorious. And his name will be the hope of all the world.”
- Today, if you are:
  - **Confident in your calling**, God will work through you to bring hope to the world. Don’t deny the dreams God gives you—find a person to love, and lend them your faith.
  - **Angry with God**, he has not abandoned justice. He is always working, and he will work through you if you surrender to him.
  - **Hurting or exhausted**, God will not crush you or let you fizzle out. He is a redeemer, able to restore every hurt and failure, and work through you to do something great.
  - **Anxious about acting in faith**, God is not fighting against you—he will give you what you need to do what he’s called you to do.
  - **In any kind of pain**, God is a healer. Jesus has compassion for you, and has promised to never leave or forsake you.
- No matter your current state and situation, the Good News about Christ is that we can put our faith in his effort, and we can trust that his power is for people—including you and me. If you take another step-in surrender to him, you can experience his supernatural presence more deeply.