

Text: Matt. 9:18-35 Title: Son of David"

INTRO: Loving dad. "Gets worse before it gets better. Be worse. Feel worse. Hurts."
Sometimes I was even the one who had to inflict the pain. Wash the wound. Get the splinter.

THESIS: If we have a Father in Heaven who loves us, then our suffering is never without purpose, and we KNOW we HAVE a Father in heaven who loves us, because He did not spare His own Son from suffering.

I. Suffering Women

A. 12 year old girl

1. Jesus had better and more important things to do than debate religion...
2. **Ruler?** Synagogue? Roman? Either way...
3. **Dead.** Lifeless. Helpless. "Sleeping"
4. **That's true for all of us,** one day we will all be raised.

B. Woman suffering 12 years

1. "IF"....That's a BIG IF. What's your big IF? **What's your Strawberry?**
2. **Eph. 3:20-21** "Now to Him who is able...more abundantly than all we can imagine"

ILLUSTRATION: Ashley McLeod - the Strawberry. Smoothie. Ant. Looking for food. WHOA!
Can you imagine what that ant felt and experienced at that moment. You won't believe it!
Where'd you get that?! How did you find that? "It just feel from the sky!" Just out of nowhere!

3. **Turned and Saw Her** - ever feel like Jesus turned His back on you? He sees you.

C. 12 Years of preparation for the glory of God.

1. **Never without purpose - "WHY GOD?!"** Even the question has a root of faith, because it assumes there is a reason and purpose behind. No matter how weak and hurt and angry and confused and troubled and doubting and lost we feel.

II. Suffering Men

A. Blind Man

1. **Son of David!** (Public Confession of Faith). King. Messiah. Promised One. Deliverer.
2. **Ezekiel 34, 23-24; 37:24-25** - DAVID. > SON OF DAVID. Intertestamental 400yrs.
3. **Have Mercy!** That's our only option. Cry of desperation. Assumes He can. It's in His power... That's his "IF"...His **Strawberry**.
4. **Still went out and disobeyed.** Forgot. Weak faith. We do too. "God if you get me through this..." And then once things are comfy again, we move on and forget.
5. **Doesn't mean we didn't believe, but we have weak faith** - and he's still **gracious**.

ILLUSTRATION: The Real Robinson Crusoe - Alexander Selkirk. 4 yrs remote island.
Reading Bible & singing Psalms. 2 more years on ship. Back to society, went right back to some of his old patterns of sin and life. He forgot...weak faith. But still believed.

B. Mute Man (Demons)

1. **He couldn't even ask.** Someone else brought. Powerless & Helpless.
2. **PRAYER** - Intercession..Can't even ask for themself, so we bring them to Jesus.

C. Some Marveled..."Never in all Israel" - Elijah & Elisha.

D. Others rejected..."He's serving the Devil." Blasphemy. Unbelief. "The only unforgivable sin, because it is the only sin against the remedy." **Matthew Henry**.

CONCLUSION:

1. **All of these people were desperate.** Tried everything. Jesus was last resort. He will allow us to "try everything" so that we realize He's the only one. He allow the suffering to last.
2. **All of these people are now dead.** Their healing was still temporary even if for a lifetime. You can't escape death forever. At best, they got old and still suffered sadness, sickness, loss, pain, exhaustion, etc.
3. **By faith, they're all free from all suffering now.** And you can be too. **Do you believe? - What's your Strawberry? What's your "IF..." "WHY?!" "Have Mercy!"**
He can handle it. He can take it. He's not insecure. He's not fragile/shaky/triggered.