

## **Jesus Took the Place He Was Given**

Turn with me to Matthew chapter nine. I want to give a few more examples of Jesus not trying to capitalize on official glory. That might be our primary emphasis.

*Matthew 9:20-26 “And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.”*

### **Woman Healed from the Issue of Blood**

Two examples here. One is that Jesus is simply walking along. He is simply on His way actually to help someone who asked for His help. This ruler had his daughter who was sick or dead, she might have been dead. And on the way this woman with the issue of blood came up behind Him and she said within herself, and what I want you to get from that is that she put Jesus in a certain category and that category was healer. She didn't say, “You're Lord and you can save me. She didn't say anything along those lines, she didn't say, “I'm a disciple.” She said, “If I could just touch the hem of His garment I will be made whole.” And she didn't express that outwardly she just touched Him. But here's my point. This is how she related to Jesus. Let me ask you this, is that official glory or glory of nature? Glory of nature absolutely. Because official glory would be if she honored Him and had everybody come over o something. But it was glory of nature because she believed that Jesus would meet her need. She touched Him and Jesus said, “*Daughter be of good comfort thy faith has made thee whole.*” The faith here, yes it was specific to healing, but I want you to see that the faith that she had in Jesus was to Jesus in a specific way and Jesus responded according to how they related to Him.

### **Maid Raised from the Dead**

Then He moved on and He goes into this house and it says, “*He said unto them, give place, the maid is not dead, she sleepeth.*” So yes, she was dead. “*The maid is not dead, but sleepeth.*” And what was the reaction? Well they laughed Him to scorn. So what does Jesus do? Jesus has been invited not by all these people here, but by the father. And the father was a certain ruler, so they laugh Him to scorn, but notice this, “*When the people put forth, He went in.*” Now that is very specific. That is incredibly specific. That Jesus did not walk into the middle of people that did not hold Him in this regard and try to convince them, or try to sway them. He waited until they were out, and in another version of this it says that just the parents were in there with Him and they sent for Him. And when it was just them, and their faith in Him on whatever level, and in this case, this isn't healing, this is raising

the dead, Jesus met them – put it like this- in the place that they gave Him, Jesus met them. He didn't push forward, He didn't say, “This isn't right. That lady right outside the door had an issue of blood twelve years, and all she wanted was healing for her flesh. And I come in here and all you want is your son raised from the dead. But I am Lord, or I am the Son of God! I am the Messiah! Or I am,” Isn't it funny that Jesus did say, “I am”. But He didn't say, “I am...” all this stuff in that way. He didn't say it to make Himself something. He even said that to make Himself something unto us, that He would be those things unto us. Not just to make Himself outward official glory, but rather by union be those things. That was the way that Jesus approached all those things. So here when the people were put forth, He went in. Now He is relating to the people as the place that they gave Him. But if He related according to the people that were in there when He first came in, He wouldn't do anything because they laughed Him to scorn. *“He went in and He took her by the hand and the maid arose.”* And then notice, *“And the fame of this went abroad into all that land.”*

### **Two Blind Men Healed**

We have already had two specific situations take place right here, but the account keeps going, verse twenty-seven, *“And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.”* What you have is Jesus simply meeting human need. That's the place that was given Him, so He meets human need. If they don't make Him greater than that, if they just make Him a slave to their needs, then that's what He does. Not only that, but He doesn't, like we said in the last couple of classes, He doesn't try to capitalize on that. He does it because He's doing it from the glory of nature, that this nature is self-giving. That's why He's doing it, and He's walking as a man, as the representative of what all men in new birth should be and that is simply self-giving first and foremost. There isn't any need putting Him on a throne, if He's not going to be self-giving. There's no need giving Him official glory, if He hasn't, I'm going to say it like this “earned the glory of nature”. This is the exact scriptures that we get in Philippians where it says, people are arguing and fighting, and Paul says, “Look not every man on the things of yourself.” He says, “Honor others.” Then he says, “Let this mind be in you,” and then he describes, “who thought it not a thing to be grasped after to be equal with God in terms of official glory. But humbled Himself and became in the form of a man and in that form gained the glory of nature, therefore God highly exalted Him and gave Him official glory.” I don't know if you follow what the scriptures just said, but there is a progression. Everybody is trying to become something through official glory. Everybody is trying to gain stature through official glory. And God is not interested in raising anybody up based on how much they can work the system. How much they can get people to honor them simply in an official way without them having any character at all.

### **“We Will Sell No Wine Before It's Time”**

So He comes and so He lives and He has nothing and no regard for being equal with God. Or let's say it like this, He has nothing in Him, or no regard for trying to gain official glory. There is an old, old commercial, it was a wine commercial and it said this, “We will sell no wine before it's time.” We're out there trying to sell our wine before it's time. We're trying to pawn ourselves off without the maturing process happening within the vessel. And trying to gain it simply because I've partnered up with the right people. “I'm in the pastor's association so people will honor me and i'll get this

reputation. If I write a book, I'll be known for my book.” I'm telling you I know ministers that have written books simply so that would give them esteem. You've actually met some of them! And I'm telling you it had nothing to do with anything except raising their official glory level. We are literally starting our business, filling our vats with wine that is not matured and running out there and trying to sell it and trying to get everybody to buy it. And the truth is if they took one sip of the true nature of where we're at, they would spit it out and go, this wine is not ready! It's not ready! It doesn't taste ready, something is wrong. Well, if you put a gold label on it. If you put a snappy saying under the cork, or do something and then get it sold in the best stores and network the thing. Forget Jesus not doing that and finding that repulsive because it's not the way of God. The Father looks at all of that and it's just an abomination to Him. It is clearly the way of man. It is clearly flesh, it is clearly using the principles of the world, you can call it business principles or whatever you want. But it's the opposite, or it is just not like what the ways of the Lord are.

### **“Don't Tell Anybody”**

Remember, these aren't the same scriptures we read last time where He said, “Don't tell anybody.” And we say that He's being humble, but He's really glad, really that they're saying that even though He told them not to. No He's not. He gave up official glory and came down here. He said, “I don't need that. I don't need angels bowing down. I don't need everybody saying “Hail to the Son of God.” I need to become a man and live this in a manner that would glorify God and represent what this new mankind is all about.” So again He says, “Don't tell anybody.” *“And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.”* That's an interesting sentence there. It's not even one sentence, it is one sentence. *“And their eyes were opened,”* I mean finish that in modern day Christianity, if some evangelist did that. Finish that sentence that sentence in the vernacular of how it would be spoken today. “And their eyes were open and they all ran around the room saying “Glory to God, God is in you!” and just carrying on, “You are really a man of God!” *““And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.”* Why? There's an old, older saying that says, “Virtue is it's own reward”. I know that doesn't apply to too many people today. They can't be satisfied with just being good, or right or whatever terms you want to apply to virtue there. They have to have follow-up. If, then. If I've done this, then this should happen. That is strictly, strictly glory of nature, but it's not glory of nature, it's glory of action to reach official glory. Because glory of nature is the Lamb, is Christ, is self-giving, is selfless in it's approach to you and I. There is no “then”, there is no “if”, there is not “if” or “then”, it's just “I will”. “Will you heal me Lord?” “I will.” “Will you help me Lord?” “I will.” Because it's who He is and He's trying to manifest not just man will be, though it is certainly that, but the kind of man that Jesus was introducing in Himself being the firstborn, or at that point, the only one of this kind, but in the resurrection there would be many more. He is representing a man who will allow God to be the life. To be the life! That's kenosis. That's true kenosis.

Kenosis is not giving up something, it's ceasing to be. Not just ceasing to do, or ceasing to exist, but ceasing to be. The depth of that runs so much deeper, then stopping doing things. It runs so much deeper then ceasing to exist by suicide or dying. To not be is to mean that you allow the being of God to exist in place of us. It is to cease to be, so that in Him, in union with Him we live, in union with Him we move, in union with Him we have our being. And we have no being apart from that. We're not working a little being. Somebody said to me, “you know you should stand up for yourself, you should do something. All this junk that's been written about you on the web, is that the way you want to be remembered?” And I said, I don't want to be remembered. I would like the Lord to be seen and known and be so real that when I'm gone, someone would say, “It was the Lord.” Now whether that happens

or not, I don't know, but that is my desire, that is my joy. That is the greatest joy.

### **MySpace – Manifestation Of What's in Adam**

This whole thing of Jesus approaching everything the opposite of us. Again, working on our being. Do you know what MySpace basically is? It's a workshop for improving your being, or your official glory. It is! Maybe not everybody does that but I would say a huge portion does. Most people would put their best picture up. Why? Because that's the way you'll be perceived. You put all of the things you like and stuff. You don't say, "I don't like Japanese people, or I just can't stand to be around..." You don't go into all that stuff, it's all the good stuff about you. Of course the list of friends, is that the most ridiculous you ever heard because most of those people will turn on you in a hair's breath given the right opportunity! And they're not really your friends anyways. Most people only have at best a couple of friends, true friends. You couldn't just have a couple of friends listed on there you would look bad! Now if you're on MySpace, forgive me, I'm not talking about you, I'm talking about all those other people who are seeking official glory, that's all I'm talking about. So I know that doesn't apply to you! I'm shooting straight. I'm telling you absolutely, you can put forth a persona on those websites that isn't even you! A little photo shop work, if your hairline is receding you could fix that a little bit. A little contrast and you'll glow! And you better believe some people have used someone else's picture. I've heard about women who got into a relationship, or emailing back and forth but oh it's a relationship. When they finally meet she says, "That's not you." And he says, "Oh, I meant to tell you." "You don't look anything like Brad Pitt you're dork boy!" Why would they do that? Because you want to improve your official glory and my God you can do it on a world wide level. Do you think God would take that into consideration in evaluating you, your being? Do you? And I say sure He will, because it's a manifestation of what is already true in us, and it's popular because it is a manifestation of what's true in Adam. Can I get an amen? It's a simple manifestation of the world, the flesh, and the devil! The lust of the eyes, the pride of life.

It is just the life long pursuit of official glory. As Cassie said on Sunday when Ben was preaching, "No need beating a dead donkey." I think there is value in laying out actual, practical ways in which we are in violation of the Lamb of God. I think that we will never pursue the Lord unless we see how self-focused we are. And how bent on getting official glory we are. And how wounded we are, and I know by experience maybe more than all of you, when that reputation wasn't given up to the Lord, making yourself of no reputation, and then God allows it to be ripped off and then you see what the heck you got working in you. And you say, "Oh, God!" (Scot shares) A lot of times the kind of people that we will relate to and fellowship with, or spend time with or allow to hang out with, are people that will enhance our official glory. You only hang out with ugly people so you look good. Is it possible that people would do that? Would it be possible that people would have bridesmaids that were not near as pretty as them, even though they're not close, just so the bride would look better? (Shea shares). I think it's valuable to examine these things. This is not to tear us down, we should have our view of our self be based on Christ. Should we not? Based on Christ. We are dead and He is our life. "Yea, that's great doctrine, but wait till you see what I've written about myself on MySpace and Face book." The whole world is linked up to the web and you're out of it if you're not, but the real world is right here. This is the real world and a whole lot of people don't socialize too well in person. They don't get along with people but they can do this and everybody goes "Whew"! At my high school reunion they give you a badge with your name on it, and they put a picture of you from high school. I knew they were going to do that in advance, if I showed you the picture you would laugh, it was a guy with glasses, and large, and I put it in there, and you just want to see what people really remembered. And a few people came up and said, "That ain't what you looked like!" I know people who came to

that reunion and flaunted it that they came in a limo, and they probably had to mortgage their house to come in it. We're all dressed up and they say, "What do you do for a living?" There is a movie about that and a girl says, "I invited post-its." Because they didn't want to look like, "what have you done?" "Not much." What it all is a practical application to our lives. It is things we worry about and we fan-dangle with. "I really like that person and I really said something stupid in front of them, and you worry for days.

### **He Did Not Capitalize on Glory of Nature**

These situations and these scriptures, we went through three scenarios right in a row, where when Jesus gets in that situation He is not going to capitalize on the glory of nature. He is not going to use the glory of nature to enhance His official glory. Now if God glorifies Him on that level, OK. If others do it, OK. But I think Jesus can tell who will and who won't. I think He can tell who is going to go out and give Him official glory not really because they have recognized His character, but because He did something nobody else could do. I think that's a big deal to Jesus. Because there were some people He didn't stop from saying anything. But many of them He did because He knew they did not perceive Him. Everyone of us know this on a little level, nothing to be compared with Jesus but when you were dating, did you ever date somebody and you had certain talents, maybe like Mallory played the flute and so people didn't know you, they would just talk about how well you played an instrument or something. And the more you were around them, the more you realized, "They don't even know me! They're speaking so highly of me and I could choke on it right now!" Or you get your feeling hurt. You're out on a date, and you realize, "This person doesn't know me, they're not even interested in me. They're interested in something else. They don't want to know me, they don't care about me." I believe when Jesus said to His disciples, "*Who do men say that I am*", I don't believe He was going through a hard time. I don't believe He was going through some image crisis. I think that He cared that people would know Him. And what was the response? "Some say you're this, some say you're a prophet, and some say you're that." And Jesus said, "alright! Official glory! Prophet, I'm working up the ladder here!" No He seemed totally unmoved until Peter said, "I think you're the Son of the living God." And He rejoiced and said, "Flesh and blood has not shown you but my Father." Because he is beginning to comprehend on a spiritual level and not an outward level.

### **Disciples Give Jesus a Bigger Place, He Treats Them Differently**

Matthew chapter eight, verse twenty-three, "*And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!*" Remember, this class is titled, "Jesus Taking the Place He Was Given". We have had all these stories of people looking to Jesus, coming to Jesus, reaching out to Jesus. So the disciples come to Him also and they bring their sorrows, and they bring their fears. And Jesus relieves them, doesn't He? But there is something different here, He also rebukes them. Now there were others that Jesus said something about being of little faith, but He didn't rebuke them, He tenderly cared for them. What does that mean? What it means is that the disciples looked at Jesus differently than most people did. They looked at Him as master, their teacher, their Lord, that's how they related. And He related back to them. He took the place that was given to Him. In this case He was given more place, more honor, more ability to speak, not just to heal, or not just to stop the waves and wind, but then to address them on a deeper level. Let's put that on a personal

basis. Maybe I shouldn't do that, I want to get into the when we get to Jesus entering the homes, and sitting down with people and this inner change that happens. But it's going to be the same thing we'll be discussing here. I'll just read some notes here:

This is because He is honored by disciples as Master. He calls them of little faith. Yet others had little faith and were not rebuked. They held different relation to Him, disciples, or strangers. He took the place they gave Him. There may have been disciples that resented this treatment and unfairness. The rich young ruler came to Jesus as a disciple to a master and Jesus said, "OK, if you're going to come as a disciple." There were a lot of people that came to Jesus just for healing, or food, or whatever and He just blessed them with no questions asked. Don't you think there needs to be a method to this madness? Don't you think there needs to be some sort of understanding to why Jesus in many cases put nothing on them and expected nothing back, but in other cases He seemed to deal more harshly but the harshness is not harshness, it is the place of a master, a teacher, a Rabbi to them. So we approach the Gospels in a whole new light. We approach the Gospels in perceiving how Jesus relates and how He adjusts to everything around Him. We'll give other examples in other classes, how Jesus went into one thing seeming to be high official glory and they turned against Him in the process and He dropped right back down. It's amazing.

### **How Does This Apply to Our Lives**

The thing to catch, not just this teaching, which is important to move on, but the thing to catch from this, is how does this apply to our lives. How do we put that on for us? And the way that we put that on, if somebody gives us official glory and then they cut back, we get upset. And if we don't understand this, we go and rebuke somebody that doesn't look at us as a Rabbi, as a teacher, as a master. And we're totally crossing lines there. You says, "No, no, no." We're not talking about lines of authority as most people think. We're talking about glory of nature, or official glory. I mean I have been in many a situation in different places. We go to Mardi-Gras, or San Antonio, and different people are in charge. And even though I have the over site, that is sort of when needed. And if the whole trip I'm not needed, then I'm just one of the gang, and someone might treat me like that way. It doesn't hurt my feelings. (Kelly shares on Hyssop)

What I'm getting from all this He wasn't trying to instruct everybody in the fulness of who He was. Think about it, because isn't that a little bit self-centered? Where you're actually working everybody to bring them to the knowledge that you're a great person. But Jesus continues to give me the feeling that that was not what He was doing. There are a lot of things that work into this, I am trying to hit on one primary thing, because that is the theme the Lord gave me for this semester. There are angles of this of Jesus walking as a sacrifice, one of the sacrifices, fulfilling all of that. For example, we just mentioned the rich young ruler and Jesus didn't seem to cut him any slack. Just that aspect for example, the Passover. The Passover says, and the Unleavened bread that is eaten during the season of Passover, God clearly instructs Shew-bread, Passover, He says, "No leaven." And so we take that to heart and we say, OK. In one place it talks about leaven being sin. So we take that to heart and we say, "Then I am going to get all the sin out of this bread that I can." But you know it's interesting in that Shew-bread and stuff, God said, "Don't add any honey too. Don't add natural sweeteners." We work so hard to get rid of the sin, but we're adding our sweetness into this offering all the time. We're calling it Jesus, but it's our honey that we're adding in. And it's not Jesus because in certain situations Jesus is approached like the rich, young, ruler, as Master and He needs to instruct that guy. (Jennifer shares)

## **Always Take the Lower Seat**

The scriptures says to avoid foolish arguments and questions and stuff. On what basis would that be? Well, usually an argument comes when two people know more than each other. They both think they both know more than the other. Among deeper life people, among people claim to know the message of Christ and Him Crucified, there tends to be an attitude that we've got the truth, and nobody else does, and so we are really needed, we are important. Our job is to tell everyone else that they're stupid. Well, no, no, and no! Our job is to live Christ. We are so full of knowledge that we think that we know Him, but we know knowledge, we don't know Him. There is that thing where you can take the lower seat, and believe it or not by doing that, let's put it on another basis. You can become "kenosised" in all of those situations and in so doing, you are not only glorifying God, you are representing Him in a perfect, beautiful way and there is some sort of faith that in death comes life. In suffering, reigning with Him would come. If we really believe this, I have been in situations where I was not respected for years and years and years and just didn't try to push my way. I just didn't and said, "You know what this is up to the Lord. I'm just going to enjoy loving these people. And I'm going to give to them." And guess what, they will take advantage of that, and once you've put yourself in that place, they will say, "Well I am greater than you and you know it." That doesn't bother Jesus. He gave that up. But interestingly enough, with time, things changed, but it had to be the Lord. Let's just say if you preach, and they preach, don't think that you're preaching is going to impress people, especially people like that. It's not. But the Lord will impress people. And again when it's all said and done, we are not going to walk in with a big box full of official glory that we gained on earth, set it before God and He say, "Oh, your box is so big!" and be impressed. He's going to look at you!