

I. INCORRECT PRIORITIES

A. Religion

1. Pastor Gray told me once
2. Religion is what man tries to do for God
3. But Salvation is what God has already done for man!
4. II Tim. 3:5 – “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
5. Notice who it was (vs. 10):
 - a. Not Israelites, not soldiers, not peasants, not people
 - b. But “Jews” with a capital J
 - c. The religious crowd
 - d. They are still around today
6. One of the questions from my ordination regarding ecclesiastical separation – what if some council of churches started trying to get me to join up with them? What would I do?
 - a. This one believes in baptismal regeneration (saved by baptism)
 - b. That one believes in infant sprinkling (not freewill)
 - c. These other ones believe you can lose your Salvation (no security)
 - d. Yet another believes some can never be Saved (Calvinism)
 - e. Our church has a statement of faith that denies all of that
 - f. We cannot be a part of it!

B. These self-righteous ones

1. Had no praise for God in the healing of this man (vs. 10)
 - a. Here he was, a man who may have laid there 38 years!
 - b. A man they may have passed every day to-and-from the Temple
 - c. Not even surprise that the man was walking!
2. Not only that, but they were WRONG!
 - a. Legalists
 - i. I’ve only been called a legalist once or twice (AFAIK)
 - ii. When people start talking about people being legalists
 - iii. Isn’t it always interesting that the “legalists” always have the higher standards of the group?
 - iv. What’s a standard? That’s the low bar, the bottom border, the minimum
 - v. Standards are good (everyone has them)
 - vi. Bathing suits in the choir?
 - b. So when people start talking about legalism
 - i. Just innocently ask what it means
 - ii. They probably can’t tell you
 - iii. Or they are probably just talking about high standards

- c. A Legalist believes one has to fulfill the Law for Salvation
- d. We are not Legalists here at NBT
- e. Eph 2:8 & 9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

C. Bearing Burdens

1. Nehemiah 13:19 – “Neh 13:19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.”
2. Jeremiah 17:21 & 22 – “Jer 17:21 Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; (22) Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.”
3. No concourse, no buying or selling, no gathering or bringing to market
4. Matthew 23:24 – “Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”

II. INSTANT OBEDIENCE

A. Jesus gave the man that was healed very specific instructions (vs. 8)

1. And this man OBEYED instantly (vs. 9)
2. We have a saying
 - a. Slow obedience is no obedience
 - b. Brother Crumpton: O-B-E-Y obey always...
3. What does the Bible say?
 - a. John 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
 - b. I Samuel 15:22 – “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

B. The man made a judgement (vs. 11)

1. How could the one who had the power to heal him on the Sabbath
2. Tell him to do anything against the Sabbath?
3. Good reasoning
4. Likewise - the Spirit of God will never tell us to do anything contrary to the WORD of God

C. The One who Saved us is WORTHY to be Obeyed!

1. Without question
2. Even when we don't understand - And even when we don't agree!
3. There have been times my children have not agreed with me
4. But they will be blessed by God in their obedience (even if!)

5. David was blessed in his obedience to King Saul

III. IRREVERENT OWNERSHIP

- A. These Jews felt a certain Improper Ownership of the Sabbath day (vs. 12)
 1. Mark 2:27 – “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:”
 2. This isn’t even a question of the chicken and the egg
 3. God did not start with the Sabbath and then have to dream up man in order to keep it!
 4. God created man in HIS image
- B. They were concerned with the MAN not the miracle (vs. 12)
 1. What man is that which said...?
 2. Would they have been happier had the man never been healed?
- C. Matthew 12:8 – “For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.”
 1. They did not own the Sabbath day – God does!
 2. Even today, we meet on Sunday and call it “The Lord’s Day”
 3. We’ve let it slip and let it slide
 4. Playing sports, sleeping in, watching TV, fishing, hunting, anything!
 5. But a certain reverence for God’s House! Worshipping Him!
 6. Our nation was once serious about it! And we were blessed for it!

IV. INTENTIONALLY MISSING

- A. The Lord had conveyed Himself away (vs. 13)
 1. Not the only time this happened in the Gospels
 2. Luke 4:28-30 – “And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, (29) And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. (30) But he passing through the midst of them went his way,”
 3. John 10:39 – “Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,”
- B. Impossible that anything else could happen.
- C. They couldn’t have taken Him no matter how they tried. Why?
- D. Matthew 26:52-54 – “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (53) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

V. INSIDE THE TEMPLE

- A. First thing the man did (vs. 14) was go into the Temple

1. He hadn't been allowed in as a cripple
 2. But now – HE was made whole
 3. The first cripple healed in Acts 3:6 & 7 did the same thing
 4. It should be hard to keep Saved people out of church
 5. He knew who had healed him – He knew Jesus was God
 6. And he wanted to go into God's house to thank Him for His blessings
- B. The Lord tells him something else that's very interesting (vs.14)
1. Sin no more
 - a. This is not a demand for sinless perfection
 - b. This is a reminder to the man, that Jesus knew all about it
 - c. Like the woman at the well, He told me all things that ever I did
 2. Sin is not the cause of all illness
 - a. Paul's Thorn: II Corinthians 12:9 – "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"
 - b. The Death of Lazarus: John 11:4 – "When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."
 3. But sin CAN be the cause
 - a. I Corinthians 11:30 – "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."
 4. Illness can be God's way of getting your attention
 - a. Pastor Ables' call to preach
- C. We don't know fully what had caused this man's harm - the Bible says it was sin
1. But don't think ill of God, He's not just waiting for someone to mess up!
 2. A young man named Ronny. I used to talk with him at basketball games
 3. Had to call my mom to find out (people say the wreck involved alcohol)
 4. You can choose the sin but you can't choose the consequences
- D. The Lord warned him – don't slip back into your old sin
- E. Or it could be even worse!

VI. INCREDIBLE ANSWER

- A. Vs. 12 – He answers the question directly – what had happened
1. But know he's heard God's word on the matter
 2. He knows he's been made whole (vs. 14)
 3. So he finds the Jews again
 - a. No more talk of beds and burdens
 - b. It is THIS Jesus that made me WHOLE
 - c. I was broken by sin and the Jesus healed me!
- B. Isn't it interesting?
1. He couldn't care less about the Jews and their traditions
 2. For 38 long years, he'd laid there

3. The legalistic prohibition against bearing burdens on the Sabbath hadn't been a problem until he'd met Jesus!
- C. Come to Him today!
1. He will heal the parts of you that are broken
 2. He will Save your soul
 3. He will make you entirely whole!