

God “Does EVERYTHING Well!”

- I. That’s true even when God lets us suffer.
- II. That’s also true when God comes to our aid.

Dear Christian friends,

The people in the gospel reading **“were amazed beyond measure.”** OF COURSE they were! Here’s a man THEY HAD BROUGHT to Jesus **“deaf and with a speech impediment”** and now he’s hearing and **“speaking plainly.”** With SUCH A HAPPY ENDING it’s not surprising they exclaimed, **“He has done EVERYTHING well!”** Or take this guy here. CRIPPLED **“from birth”** and now he’s **“walking and jumping.”** NO DOUBT this man would have echoed the crowd’s, **“He has done EVERYTHING well.”**

But do you REALLY BELIEVE that God **“does EVERYTHING well”**? Or have you HAD YOUR MOMENTS when you’ve doubted God’s **love** – questioned God’s **ways** – wondered about God’s **wisdom**? INSTEAD OF exclaiming **“He does everything well!”** were you more wondering, “WHY, God? WHERE are You, God?”

Today marks the start of Sunday School and Bible class. Today’s readings show us WHAT A BLESSING it is to **have God’s Word** and HOW IMPORTANT it is that we know and live God’s Word. WALKING BY SIGHT we’d never believe that God **“does everything well.”** Too many problems and disasters SEEM TO CONTRADICT that. But WALKING BY A FAITH built on God’s clear Word and promises we too can exclaim, **“God does EVERYTHING well!”** 1)That’s TRUE even when God **lets us suffer** and 2)it’s ALSO TRUE when God comes to our aid.

I. That’s true even when God lets us suffer.

God **“does EVERYTHING well.”** That’s TRUE even when God **lets us suffer**. Take this man here. **“Lame from birth”** and he’s now **“over forty years old.”** THANKFULLY he had some friends or family who **“carried him every day and place him at the temple gate, which is called Beautiful, so that he could beg donations from those entering the temple.”**

The **“Beautiful”** gate was probably the busiest of the temple **entrances**. **“Every day”** for who know how many years he sat there begging. **“Every day”** he saw hundreds if **not 1,000s** of people walking in and out of the temple and he had NEVER EVEN TAKEN one step in his whole life. There were those who gave him some money but how many others PASSED right by not even looking at him. People do avoid EYE CONTACT with beggars. PRIOR to this day we know that Peter and John – JESUS Himself! – had often been to the temple. How many times had they seen him – MAYBE even gave him a donation – but didn’t heal him? Jesus didn’t heal EVERY **sick** or **hurting** person He saw.

God **“does EVERYTHING well”** even when He **lets us suffer**. FROM GOD’S WORD we learn some important truths about our sufferings. We can ultimately trace them back **all the way** to Adam and Eve’s fall into sin in the Garden of Eden. That first sin may look like NO BIG DEAL but it was **in fact** an act of rebellion and **defiance** of our loving Creator. That first sin ruined God’s **perfect creation** and brought sickness and suffering – **pain** and **problems** – death and **grief** into the world and our OWN PERSONAL LIVES. We are sinners living in a **world fallen** under the curse and consequence of sin. Life now isn’t always EASY – FAIR – RIGHT. God never promised us that – God doesn’t OWE us that – and we shouldn’t EXPECT it either.

God’s Word confronts us with that DREARY REALITY but then it also shows us that God **“does EVERYTHING well”** even when He **lets us suffer**. There are some more important truths for us to

learn here FROM GOD'S WORD. Even when we suffer – FAIRLY or **unfairly** – God is still IN CONTROL of **all things** at **all times** and God STILL LOVES us no matter how much we may **be hurting**. God doesn't get His jollies out of **making our lives miserable** but WHEN IT'S FOR our eternal good God will let us suffer. We read in Hebrews 12, ***“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves. God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness.”***

We may not like WHATEVER it is we're **suffering** – we would much rather have God TAKE IT AWAY – but because God ***“does EVERYTHING well”*** there's no need for us to WHINE or complain. Instead of WALLOWING in **self-pity** we should ask ourselves, “WHAT is God **trying to teach** me with this?”

Just consider SOME LESSONS we **can learn** from our sufferings – BIG and IMPORTANT lessons:

- To appreciate the blessings God HAS GIVEN us and not just focus on what He's **not given** us;
- To refocus our priorities in life. **Maybe** we've fallen more in love with our COMFORT, TOYS, whatever than with God. We've pushed God off to the side in our lives. Our real treasures are in heaven NOT THE THINGS of this life;
- To exercise and live our faith – to realize and use the **power** of prayer – to treasure and find our comfort in God's Word and promises – to ***“let our lights shine”*** to show others how AS CHRISTIANS we handle life's sufferings;
- To teach us that we're NOT GOD – we're not in control – we don't have all the **answers** – we NEED GOD – His Word, love, promises.
- To teach us to TRUST God – **to trust HIS Word** and **promises** – HIS wisdom and **ways** – HIS timing and **love**.

God ***“does EVERYTHING well”*** even when He **lets us suffer** because God IS DOING IT for our eternal good. God also does ***“EVERYTHING WELL”*** ...

II. When He comes to our aid.

I struggled with JUST HOW to **say that**. It's so easy to think that the ONLY WAY God comes to our aid is BY FIXING whatever is wrong. And if God doesn't do that then God REALLY HASN'T **come to our aid**. That's walking ***“by sight and not by faith.”*** FROM GOD'S WORD we learn that God ALSO COMES **to our aid** not by taking away whatever but by using it to DRAW US **closer** to Him – by giving us the STRENGTH and PATIENCE to **endure** whatever. God comes to our aid and He does ***“EVERYTHING well”*** even when life isn't ROSY and PERFECT. But let's now focus on when God DOES heal or fix whatever is wrong.

Peter makes eye contact with the beggar, even says, ***“Look at us.”*** The beggar ***“paid close attention to them, expecting to receive a donation.”*** Was he perhaps anticipating a BIGGER THAN USUAL donation from them? Peter and John have something even better than MORE MONEY for him. ***“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”*** Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk.”

It's an immediate and complete healing. NO REHAB! No first learning how to walk. **After** ALL THOSE YEARS of being crippled – depending on others to bring him to the temple – begging for a living he's now ***“walking – jumping – praising God.”*** IN GOD'S TIMING this was the day for his healing. In GOD'S WISE PLANNING this was to be the result of **those years** of being a crippled beggar – ***“walking – jumping – praising God.”*** Peter makes clear that HE PERSONALLY **didn't heal** this man. This miracle happened ***“in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene.”***

There's NOTHING FLASHY about this miracle except the result. LIKE SO MANY other miracles there's no fanfare or **trumpets**, just God quietly coming to the aid of people in need. Do we often not

recognize GOD COMING to our aid because it's such a plain, nothing fancy way? START with what we so often take for granted – our HEALTH - our bodies functioning smoothly. Do we DAILY thank God for the ability to ***“walk and jump”*** or does it take NEEDING A CANE or walker to ***get us to appreciate*** that gift? Do we sometimes grumble and complain ABOUT THE WAY ***God comes*** to our aid? Do we thank God for that ***cane or walker that enables*** us to STILL GET AROUND ***although slower*** than we'd like? Do we grumble about needing GLASSES or do we thank God for the ***glasses that enable*** to STILL SEE loved one's face and read His Word? God ***“does EVERYTHING well”*** HOWEVER He comes to our aid!

That is especially true when ***God comes*** to our aid in our GREATEST SPIRITUAL NEEDS – the need for forgiveness – real peace with God – real strength for life – real hope and ***comfort*** in the face of death. It's NOTHING FLASHY – ***many*** are even turned off by God's help. A baby born in a barn so to speak in a little HICK-TOWN. Yet that Baby is none other than the ***eternal, almighty Son of God Himself born*** our flesh-and-blood brother. Jesus – a rather ordinary boy – an average looking guy – yet DON'T BE FOOLED by appearances! Jesus is our perfect Savior. Boy, does Jesus come TO OUR AID – He takes care of everything to save us. Jesus lived for us a ***whole life of perfect love and obedience*** - of perfect TRUST IN His Father's ***will and ways***. On the cross Jesus took the punishment for the sins of the whole world – He died the death that paid for all our sins ***in full***. Risen triumphant from the dead on Easter morning Jesus lives OUR CONQUEROR of death, the devil and hell. TRUSTING ***“in Jesus Christ of Nazareth”*** WE HAVE God's forgiveness of all our sins – have peace – a ***whole new relationship*** with God. With ***“Jesus Christ of Nazareth”*** as our PERSONAL SAVIOR we have the strength to live this life – we have real hope and ***comfort*** in death – we are going straight to heaven when we die.

Just look at HOW GOD COMES to our aid in bringing us to faith in Jesus and keeping us focused on Jesus. He USES A BOOK – water – bread and wine. But it's NOT JUST SIMPLY that. That Book is God's perfect Word. That water is a precious ***“washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”*** That meal is Jesus' true ***“body and blood given for the forgiveness of all our sins.”*** NOTHING FANCY or ***spectacular*** but what miracles God works in our hearts and lives THROUGH those means of grace!

God ***“does EVERYTHING well.”*** It doesn't always LOOK THAT WAY to us. We may not always LIKE THE WAYS God uses to ***come to our aid***. But FROM GOD'S WORD we know that God ***“does EVERYTHING well.”*** Amen.

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