

YOUR FAITH
OBLIGATES GOD TO
MOVE ON YOUR
BEHALF!

WHEN YOUR WILL MEETS GOD'S WILLINGNESS!

MATTHEW 8:1-3

9.14.25

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY
RODMAN STREET CHURCH

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Title: When Your Will Meets God's Willingness

Sermon Summary:

In this powerful message, we're reminded of the transformative power of faith when it intersects with God's willingness to act in our lives. The central story of the leper in Matthew 8:1-3 teaches us that even in our most desperate and 'unclean' moments, we can approach Jesus with confidence. The leper's bold declaration, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean,' becomes a model for our own prayers. We learn that faith isn't just about believing God can do something but trusting that He is willing to do it for us. This sermon explores the power of faith and God's willingness to heal and transform lives. It emphasizes that when our will aligns with God's willingness, miracles can happen.

This message challenges us to push past our fears, doubts, and societal barriers to fall at Jesus' feet in worship. It encourages us to take that first step of faith, even when circumstances seem hopeless. The parallel drawn between the leper's healing and our own life situations reminds us that God is still willing to heal, restore, and transform us today. This teaching invites us to examine where we might be holding back in our faith journey and encourages us to boldly approach God with our deepest needs.

The pastor encourages believers to push through fear, doubt, and societal barriers to approach Jesus with faith, just as the leper did. The sermon highlights that faith begins with a step, is tested through challenges, influences divine action, and is confirmed through manifestation.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Beginning of Faith

This chapter introduces the concept of faith through the story of a leper approaching Jesus for healing.

Chapter 2: The Testing of Faith

This section discusses how faith is tested through various life challenges and obstacles.

Chapter 3: The Influence of Faith

This chapter explores how faith can influence divine action and personal transformation.

Chapter 4: The Confirmation of Faith

The final chapter discusses how faith is confirmed through tangible results and answered prayers.

Key Points:

- Faith begins with taking the first step towards God
- Our faith will always be tested, but we must trust God through trials
- Faith influences heaven to act on earth and is contagious

- God confirms our faith through manifestation of answered prayers
- We must not let fear or doubt prevent us from approaching God
- God is willing to heal, restore, and transform lives when we have faith

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 8:1-3

Stories:

- The story of the leper approaching Jesus for healing
- James Evans from "Good Times" failing to go to a job interview due to fear
- The pastor's personal story about praying for 60 years of marriage despite health challenges
- The creation of the "Living Intelligently, Fulfilling Expectation" (LIFE) school for young boys
- Operation Inasmuch community service in response to 9/11
- The account of a man who took his own life after a bad medical report, illustrating the importance of giving God a chance

SCRIPTURES:

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some suggested relevant verses for the main themes:

Explicitly mentioned:

1. Matthew 8:1-3

2. Psalm 118:6
3. James 2:17 (alluded to - faith without works is dead)
4. Matthew 25:40 (alluded to - "whatever you do for the least of these")
5. Proverbs 18:16 (alluded to - "your gift will make room for you")
6. Deuteronomy 28:13 (alluded to - "you are the head and not the tail")
7. Deuteronomy 28:3-6 (alluded to - blessings in the city, field, coming and going)
8. Malachi 3:10 (alluded to - tithing and opening the floodgates of heaven)
9. Ephesians 3:20 (alluded to - God doing exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think)
10. Philippians 4:19 (alluded to - God shall supply all your needs)
11. Romans 8:31 (alluded to - if God is for us, who can be against us)

Themes and suggested relevant verses:

1. Faith and healing:

- Mark 11:22-24
- James 5:15

2. Overcoming fear:

- Isaiah 41:10
- 2 Timothy 1:7

3. God's willingness to help:

- Matthew 7:7-8
- 1 John 5:14-15

4. Trusting God in difficult times:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Jeremiah 29:11

5. The power of prayer:

- James 5:16
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

6. God's compassion:

- Lamentations 3:22-23
- Psalm 103:8

7. Serving others:

- Galatians 5:13
- 1 Peter 4:10

8. Hope in God:

- Romans 15:13

- Hebrews 11:1

QUOTES:

When your will meets God's willingness. Have you ever been a dead end? Have you ever been boxed in on every side? Have you ever had the doctor say there's nothing else we can do? but God still says that He was willing.

Fear has two meanings. Forget Everything And Run. Or Face Everything And Rise.

Faith always begins with a step. You got to take some baby steps to get to where you need to be.

The leper's faith is what moved Jesus. His faith influenced the heart of the Master. Jesus didn't just speak a word. He reached out and touched the man.

Faith doesn't end in imagination. It ends with manifestation. See, the confirmation of faith is when what you believe in the dark shows up in the light.

The doctor's report didn't change my prayer. My prayer changed the doctor's report.

When you have a will and it intersects with God's willingness, God makes a way out of no way.

The beginning of faith is when you stop listening to the voice of fear and start listening to the voice of hope.

God delights in showing his power. And his power is best when He brings deliverance in a situation which appears too hard for man.

A light shines brightest when it is the darkest.

Faith is not passive. It moves you toward Jesus.

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: The Willingness of God

Reading: Matthew 8:1-3

Devotional: Today's reading reminds us of God's willingness to heal and restore. Just as Jesus reached out to touch the leper, declaring "I am willing," God extends His hand to us in our brokenness. Reflect on areas in your life where you need God's touch. Are there situations you've hesitated to bring to Him, thinking they're too small or too big?

Remember, no matter what you're facing, God is willing to meet you there. His love knows no bounds. Take a moment to pray, asking God to help you trust in His willingness to work in your life. How can you step out in faith today, believing that God is willing to move on your behalf?

Day 2: Faith that Moves Mountains

Reading: Matthew 17:20-21

Devotional: Jesus teaches that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. In our passage, we see a man's faith influencing Jesus to act.

Your faith, no matter how small, has the power to move God's heart. Think about the "mountains" in your life - challenges, fears, or seemingly impossible situations. How can you exercise faith in these areas today? Remember, faith isn't about the absence of doubt, but about taking a step forward despite it. Pray for God to increase your faith and give you the courage to act on it. What small step of faith can you take today that might lead to big changes in your life or the lives of others?

Day 3: The Test of Faith

Reading: James 1:2-4

Devotional: Our faith will be tested, but these trials produce perseverance. The leper in Matthew 8 faced numerous obstacles, yet he pressed through to reach Jesus. What tests are you facing right now? Instead of viewing them as punishments or setbacks, try to see them as opportunities for growth. How might God be using your current challenges to strengthen your character and deepen your faith? Take time to thank God for the trials you're facing, trusting that He is working through them for your good. Ask Him for the strength to persevere and the wisdom to learn the lessons He's teaching you through these tests.

Day 4: The Community of Hope

Reading: Hebrews 10:24-25

Devotional: Today's reading emphasizes the importance of community in our faith journey. The sermon spoke about building a "community of hope." How are you contributing to hope in your community? Think about ways you can encourage others in their faith walk. Maybe it's through a kind word, an act of service, or simply being present for

someone in need. Pray for opportunities to be a beacon of hope in your sphere of influence. Consider reaching out to someone today who might need encouragement. Remember, as we build each other up, we create a ripple effect of hope that can transform entire communities.

Day 5: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:38-39

Devotional: Nothing can separate us from God's love - not even our deepest suffering. The leper in Matthew 8 was isolated and in pain, yet he found healing in Jesus' presence. Reflect on times in your life when you've felt God's presence most strongly. Was it during a time of joy or a time of struggle? Remember that God is with you in every season. If you're going through a difficult time right now, invite God into that pain. Ask Him to make His presence known to you in a tangible way. Meditate on the truth that no matter what you're facing, God's love for you remains constant and unshakeable. How can you rest in that love today, allowing it to bring you peace and hope?

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Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: When Your Will Meets God's Willingness

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture: Matthew 8:1-3

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor talks about the "beginning of faith." What does this mean to you? Can you share a time when you had to take a first step of faith?
2. How has your faith been tested recently? What helped you persevere through that test?
3. The sermon mentions that "fear has two meanings: Forget Everything And Run, or Face Everything And Rise." How do you typically respond to fear in your life?
4. Pastor Canady emphasizes that "faith doesn't end in imagination, it ends with manifestation." Can you share an example of when your faith resulted in a tangible outcome?

5. How does the leper's approach to Jesus (kneeling, worshipping, asking) inform how we should approach God with our needs?

Key Takeaways:

1. Faith often begins with a small step towards God.
2. Our faith will be tested, but these tests can strengthen our character and commitment.
3. Faith has the power to influence not just our lives, but our communities.
4. God is willing to meet us in our need when we approach Him in faith.

Practical Applications:

1. Identify an area in your life where you need to take a step of faith this week.
2. Practice reframing your fears using the "Face Everything And Rise" mentality.
3. Spend time each day this week worshipping God, even (and especially) in difficult circumstances.
4. Look for opportunities to be a "community of hope" to someone in need.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His willingness to meet us in our needs. Ask for the courage to step out in faith and the strength to persevere through tests.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the story of the leper demonstrate the power of faith in overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles? How can we apply this lesson to challenges in our own lives?
2. The sermon emphasizes the phrase 'When your will meets God's willingness.' What does this mean to you personally, and how might it change your approach to prayer and spiritual growth?
3. Pastor Canady contrasts 'fear' with 'faith' throughout the sermon. How do you distinguish between healthy caution and fear that holds you back from God's blessings?
4. The sermon mentions James Evans from 'Good Times' not going to a job interview out of fear of rejection. How might this relate to missed spiritual opportunities in our lives? How can we balance taking action (like going to the job interview) with trusting in God's plan and timing?
5. How does the concept of 'testing of faith' challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?

6. The pastor speaks about the 'Community of Hope' vision. In what ways can we, as individuals and as a church, become a 'community of hope' for those around us who are struggling or marginalized?
7. What does it mean to you that Jesus was 'willing' to heal the leper, and how does this relate to God's willingness in our lives today?
8. The sermon discusses the 'influence of faith' being contagious. How have you seen faith positively influence others in your life or community?
9. Pastor Canady shares about the program to 'save the boys' initiated on 9/11. How can tragedy be transformed into positive action and hope in our communities?
10. The sermon concludes with the idea that 'My prayer changed the doctor's report.' How does this challenge our understanding of the relationship between faith, prayer, and real-world outcomes?