

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – June 2011

“little savior or THE SAVIOR”

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’” —Mark 2:5 NJKV

In Mark 2:1-5, we read about a paralyzed man whose friends tore a hole in a roof and lowered him down to Jesus. He came to be healed of his physical infirmity, but Jesus was determined to heal the whole man. Because “...Jesus knows something the man doesn’t know—that he has a much bigger problem than his physical condition. Jesus is saying to him, ‘I understand your problem. I have seen your suffering. I’m going to get to that. But please realize that the main problem in a person’s life is never his suffering: it’s his sin.’”

Sin is rebellion against God. When we live out our lives as if God does not matter, ignore our creator, doing our own thing without regard to His laws, never thanking Him for all the blessings He gives us day by day—we are in rebellion against His lordship. And that is our main problem.


The paralyzed man thinks that if he can only walk again that everything will be okay—fixed. He’ll be happy forever. But He won’t. Once the euphoria wears off, he’ll still be who he is. He’ll still be in rebellion. And he will be discontented again.

Every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus. We think we will be happy if we just get that job or become successful in that career, enter into that relationship, own that car, buy that house, have that baby, lose that weight—and so on. You have made that wish into your savior, though you would never use that term for it. And once you get it, it turns on you. Any satisfaction you gain from it soon dissipates—and you go *searching in all the wrong places* again.

We come to church, to God, with our little troubles—just wanting God to help us over the hump; so that we can go back to living our lives for ourselves and living our way. But Jesus wants to go deeper than that. He wants to go all the way “to our heart and reconfigure the main thing that our heart wants...it wasn’t our deepest wish that was the problem...the fact that we thought getting our deepest would heal us, would save us—that was the problem. We had to let Jesus be our Savior.”

Our little saviors will never truly satisfy us. There is only one True Savior. If you have Jesus, He will never fail you. And even when you fail Him, Jesus will always forgive you. He’s the only Savior who can do that.

We pray for physical healing all the time in this church, but we need to go deeper than that. We all will die someday, and after that the judgment. So, let’s not pray just for healing of the body. No one’s suffering need be in vain if it opens them up to the Lord’s call—His request to be our only Savior. “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me...For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:34b, 36-37 NKJV)



“You have made that wish into your savior, though you would never use that term for it. And once you get it, it turns on you. Any satisfaction you gain from it soon dissipates—and you go *searching in all the wrong places* again.”

Quotations and notes are from “King’s Cross” by Timothy Keller. I highly recommend this book, and any others by Mr. Keller, whose writing is biblically sound. The Adult Wednesday night Bible study is currently going through this book that is based on the Gospel of Mark.

+