

## Infrastructure of Blessing pt 2:

### Tesla Story:

-Tesla has been in the news a lot lately, it seems that the Ceo Elon Musk isn't allowed to Tweet without getting them approved first

-the content of his tweet was just about how fast the company has grown....

-in 2012 they sold 14,000 cars and in 2018 they sold about 200,000

-Tesla's innovation and growth have been very exciting to watch

-What an amazing machine.....

-In the midst of Tesla's celebration there is though a substory of problems.

-In ONE YEAR from 2017-2018 the company grew 400%. It grew 4x's over

**-How do you hire and train people fast enough to build 4x's as much one year as the last?**

**-How do you build the extra factories fast enough???**

-but Elon Musk is a smart dude and they seemed to have figured it out.

**-but as 2018 unfolded people started filing lawsuits**, because their cars were months past due

**-Tesla grew its business 4x's over but did not Build the Infrastructure necessary to DELIVER THAT MANY CARS**

-There were simple problems like they just didn't own enough car carrier trucks

-they didn't have enough parking lots to park them on,,, while they wait for trucks

-they bought new car carrier trucks but then **didn't have enough drivers** for the new trucks

**-They Had Cars ,,, And they Had People everywhere who wanted cars,,,,, but they didn't have the Infrastructure in between those two crucial things**

-I tell this story to make 2 simple points:

-There is more to consider than just Supply and Demand; Delivery Infrastructure is Essential.

-in this series we are focused on the fact that God has So much available to us,,,, we we NEED SO MUCH

-But often the Key is having the Infrastructure in place to Get the Things God has provided to the places where they can be used.

-The other point we will draw in on today is that often waiting until need presents itself is Too Late.

-we miss opportunities

-needs often go unmet in painful and destructive ways.

*-today we are going to look at the story again from last week, but this time from the perspective of the guy on the mat*

-Luke 5:17-25 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

20 When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**"

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

*-next week we will reconsider this story though the eyes of the 4 friends, but for today lets all get in the mental place of man being carried to Jesus.*

## **Nobody wants to be the Person on the Mat, needing help.**

-Need is sometimes hard to spot because it is usually localized to particular areas of life.

-maybe we are: well loved, physically fit, good looking, good at our job, good with money, and have a CREST SMILE,,, but we also have an addiction that is slowly growing into a black hole

-Maybe we are: very disciplined in every area, health, no addictions, financially, read our bible every day,,,,, but we cannot get it together Emotionally....

-your achilles heal could be: marriage, thought life, anger, money, could be friendships (maybe you are socially clueless and as a result you are isolated and lonely)

-None of us need help in Every area of Life.

-And most of us learn to compensate for our weakness by drawing attention to strengths.

**-But lets stop for a moment of Honesty: What is an area of life where I might be the person on the mat?**

-We tend to think about life in stark terms: Winners and Losers, Happy or Miserable, Good or Bad; but reality is more nuanced.

-because of this there are some friendships that you have where, at times you are on the mat needing some help from Jesus

-and at the same time in other relationships and other situations you may be one able to carry a friend.

## **Question: How do we live in such a way that we will have the Infrastructure in place, to carry us to Jesus, when we need it?**

-“Carrying Friendships” need to be built ahead of the need.

-you cannot wait until the point of obvious need

*-just like Tesla's issue,,,, once the need is obvious, it is too late*

*-by that point you will be so far behind. - you will get sued, you will lose customers*

*-you will lose market share. - you will lose investors. -you will lose it all....*

-I guarantee these 4 friends knew this man Long Before this day.

-JESUS WAS IN TOWN

-everyone else was running and crowding in

-these 4 were not going to risk not getting into the house for a stranger

-they are not carrying a stranger miles in the sun

-they are not hoisting a stranger or even a NEW FRIEND UP ON A ROOF

-they are definitely dismantling someone's roof to help a stranger,,,

- they are not going to DISRUPT A SERMON FROM JESUS IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS, for someone they just met

-These 4 are willing to go to such lengths because they are INVESTED in this Friend.

*-they probably played ball together as kids*

*-they were in each others weddings. -they were there with each other when kids were born*

*-and they were there when the accident happened at work*

*-they all pitched in to help care for his wife and kids*

*-they all prayed every day for their friend*

*-they all watched as weeks turned to years and their FRIEND'S BODY SHRIVELED*

**-And they had all heard stories of this Jesus. They heard of blind eyes opened, withered hands healed, lepers cleansed. They heard he was in town.**

-one friend said to the other “do you think Jesus might heal Steve”

-I have heard people say he might be God's Messiah....

-they probably agreed: “i don't know about that for sure but I believe that IF WE GET STEVE IN FRONT OF JESUS HE JUST MIGHT WALK HOME!!!

-The friendships that you will really need, tend to be the ones that you build before you are really in need.

**-that is why we offer all the kids and youth programs we offer,,,,, your kids need to build the Infrastructure of Positive Friendships ahead of trouble**

*-dont be discouraged,,, its never too late, ,, but start now.....*

*-in some cases those relationships will be key to keeping them out of trouble*

-or if not keeping them from trouble, those relationships will be the **anchors** that help hold your kids to Jesus **even through challenging and confusing years**

-whats true for your kids is true for you

-you need relationships that are DEEP before the job is lost

-before yours or your spouses health fails,,,, -before the financial storm comes

-before the tragic accident happens

-Here is why you have to build blessing infrastructure ahead of trouble:

-everybody has issues of their own

-those 4 friends were not without issues

-they each had their own things they could have pursued Jesus for that day

-because their relationship with their paralyzed friend went so deep, his need was real enough to them to overshadow what they wanted.

-So when they heard Jesus was in town, they thought not of their need but of his. They were close enough for His Need to Be as Important as Their Own.

-In the Sunny Days of life we need to Proactively build the Friendship Infrastructure needed for the Stormy Days.

## **How do we receive Blessing from Friendship Infrastructure once it is created?**

-Humility and Receptivity are required before we can receive blessing through Friendship.

-We have to sincerely believe and act like our friends are in possession of blessing we need.

**-we have to recognize that there are places in life where we are ON THE STRETCHER**

**-We have to understand that God usually helps and heals through the people he has put in our lives.**

--2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

**-Sometimes, that is not just your friend saying that, or asking that question; Sometimes it is Jesus.**

-it is a humble looking Clay Jar,, **but sometimes it contains the the Glory, Power or Wisdom of Eternal God!**

-If you tend to be more interested in what You Say or Think than in what your friends say or think; you will miss much of what God is doing for you.

-James 1:19 tells us to QUICK TO LISTEN AND SLOW TO SPEAK

-Receptivity comes into reach when we recognize who may actually be at work through our friends.

-Maybe thats actually God himself pushing you to CHECK your attitude

-Maybe that actually God implying to you that you have gotten TOO INTO STUFF

-Maybe that is actually God telling you that “maybe you drink too much”

-Maybe God himself is Showing you the Path FORWARD when a Friend says “i think you really need to forgive and let things go”

**-But it is not just Receptivity it also takes humility.**

-Who knows how long that friend had been paralyzed!

-how many times had he prayed

-how many sacrifices had he given at the temple

**-by now he knew that there was nobody or nothing in his circle that could fix his problem**

-So why did he agree to let those friends carry him that day?

-why did he allow them to hoist him up on the roof?

-why didn't he stop them when they began disassembling the roof?

**-He let them help because he recognized that there might be something bigger than his friends at work in their actions.**

***-maybe this is how God is going to deliver what I need?***

*-through their faith. -through their determination. -through their actions*

-verse 20 When Jesus saw **their faith**, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.

**-Sometimes the answer to your problem has nothing to do with you.**

-sometimes its not your wisdom, ability, or resourcefulness

**-sometimes not even your faith**

-Understanding that God himself actually works through our friends brings us to a point Humility and Receptivity.

**-that humility and receptivity enabled that man to be carried around and made a spectacle of**

*-Receptive Humility will enable us to see the Infinite disguised in the Finite, as it stands next to us.*

## **Question: But what if my friends are dumb?**

*-There are 2 answers to this:*

--Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise; for a friend of fools suffers harm

**-1. Proactively build friendships with Wise and Godly People.**

-dont allow foolish people to retain places of influence in your life

-you cant eliminate them completely, but **if they are next to you in the front seat of the car** and they keep jerking the wheel or fiddling with the instruments, **GET THEM OUT OF THE FRONT SEAT....**

*-I have a lot of dumb funny stories that I can tell now, because there were some years of my life that I lived in dumb ways.*

-the key to having dumb stories that you don't know they are dumb and funny until you are no longer living like a dummy ,,, until then it just seems like normal life ....

**-One of the key differences between the stories my life produces now and what it did then are the Friendship I keep close to me.**

-Be proactive about forming connections with wise people who are trying to live like Jesus.

*-sticking with the metaphor of the front seat access ::: try to get really good people next to you in your front seat*

*-Making great friendships and buckling the dummies up in the back seat is actually a spiritual Discipline,,,, it is a path toward Blessing.*

**2. Use discernment.**

-At times even good friends will be simply speaking and acting on their own, and at times they will be speaking and acting under the direction of God.

**LEARN TO DISCERN THE DIFFERENCE.**

--In a letter to the church in a city called Thessalonica Paul was teaching them how to sort through all the information coming our way and **FIND GOD'S WORDS** in the midst of all kinds of nonsense.

-the lesson wasn't specifically for friendship but the Principle he teaches has great application to what we are discussing.

-1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

-the Holy Spirit will speak many different ways to those who are listening

-don't be cynical (that is what quenching the Spirit means)

-recognize that at any given time God may be trying to teach you, or lead you toward something, or confirm some idea in your life,, or just encourage you ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, **he is**

**speaking so be receptive**

-but don't be gullible,, and don't believe everything is from God

-test things

-When a friend says something that causes you to think, or challenges you to look at something in your life (steps of discernment) :

-**first** compare the idea to what we know about Jesus from the Bible

-is it specifically in line with what Jesus teaches? if not specifically is it congruent?

-**next, pray**

-get alone with God and ask him about the idea,, quiet your mind push through initial emotional reactions

-pay attention to see if God begins to mold your heart for or against this idea

-**finally, is it wise**

-consider what response to this might look like

-Seek wise counsel ::: talk to someone Godly you respect and say ,, I think God may be speaking to me through this situation with this friend,,, Does that sound like God to you????

-Even the most Godly friends talk off the top of their head sometimes

-sometimes people share advice on issues they are not experts in....

-sometimes the things Good People Say are GOOD BUT STILL NOT GOD.

**-but sometimes the thing you need from God to get off the mat in that area of your life is Humbly Packaged in a Friend**

-So we Test Everything. Hold on to the good and move past the common or even nonsense.

**-Recognizing and Responding to God's goodness Channeled through Friendships can unlock Phenomenal Growth, Healing, and Transformation for us.**

*-look what it did for the guy on the mat*