

PRESIDENT'S

Report

JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

There's an incredible story found in Matthew chapter 8:1 where it says, "When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him."

Now if you know your Bible at all, you'll recognize that in Matthew chapters 5 through 7, Jesus had just preached the greatest sermon that was ever preached on planet earth. He had just preached a sermon to thousands of people up on a mountain, a message we call the Sermon on the Mount.

The Gospels indicate He came down from the mountain to the edge of the sea of Galilee near the village of Capernaum, and the crowd was so large that He had to step into a boat and use it as a pulpit.

But there was someone at the back of the crowd listening to every word that fell from the lips of Jesus. In fact, he also watched breathlessly as Jesus healed the lame, deaf, and blind, and soon something happened in his heart that caused him to not just be a hearer of the word, but a doer of the word, and he quickly decided to come to Jesus.

The truth is that it doesn't matter when you come to Jesus, where you come to Jesus, or how you come to Jesus. The only thing that matters is that you do choose to come to Jesus at some point in your lifetime. Matthew 8:2 says a leper came to him and bowed down before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Well, the crowd panicked and parted like the Red Sea, because of all diseases known in the Middle East two thousand years ago, leprosy was most dreaded. It was contagious, incurable, and its' horrible effect upon its victims filled the

bravest man with fear.

But notice how Jesus responded because He still responds the same way today toward every human being who has ever lived, to every one of His children.

Matthew 8:3 says, "Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him." Now let me ask you, Did Jesus need to touch this man to heal him? No. He could have healed him in any number of ways, but Jesus deliberately chose to touch him. Why? Because Jesus had much more in mind for this man than he even asked for.

First of all, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him to heal him emotionally. It's possible this man had not experienced the touch of another human being for years. So, when Jesus touched him and embraced him, He healed him emotionally.

Secondly, Jesus reached out and touched him to heal him socially. The leper was not permitted to be in the crowd. He was supposed to be in isolation. He wasn't able to attend the synagogue on Sabbath morning. Does that sound familiar? He was an utter outcast, but when Jesus touched him, He made him whole socially.

Thirdly, Jesus touched him and healed him financially. A leper was not able to work to make a living because he wasn't able to associate with people. His family likely had to bring him food on a daily basis, just so he could survive, but Jesus touched him and healed him financially.



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DAVID JAMIESON



JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING... *Continued from previous page*

Fourthly, Jesus touched him and healed him physically. Luke, a physician, said that the man was covered with leprosy. (Luke 5:12) His fingers, toes, and nose were likely rotting away. His larynx was under attack so much so that he called out in a raspy voice, "Unclean! Unclean!"

But this man knew the urgency of his situation. He knew that never since the days of Elisha had anyone ever been healed of leprosy, but he also knew that Jesus was his only hope. That there is no other hope for this world, except in Jesus.

Finally, Jesus healed the leper spiritually. Among the Jews leprosy was regarded as a curse, a judgment against some terrible sin, and was called the stroke of the finger of God. However, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him to let him know that he was not cursed. That he was not under the judgment of God. That he was not an outcast. That he belonged to the family of God, as a son of Abraham, and child of the heavenly king.

My friend, when Jesus touches you, He makes you completely whole. Jesus changes everything!

INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



Tom Decker
Pastor

Diamond Lake/
Edgemere/
Newport



Jon Jennette
Pastor

Otis Orchards



Ezequiel Peralta
Pastor

Yakima New
Faith/Three
Angels Spanish



Stephen Reasor
Associate
Pastor

College Place



Sam Smith
Associate
Pastor

Walla Walla
University



Jason Worf
Pastor

Pasco Riverview

ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Abundant Life/Cashmere
- Bonners Ferry/Clark Fork
- Irrigon/Heppner/Hermiston
- Chewelah/Deer Park
- Clarkston/Good News Fellowship
- New Movement – Pasco

- Osburn/Plummer/St. Maries
- Post Falls/Spirit Lake
- Spokane North View
- Touchet/Umapine/WW Northside
- Upper Columbia Academy



ACTIONS TAKEN AT 2.23.23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Administration update

- David Jamieson, president, presented a devotional about being alone in the crowd and how we can all serve one more. Jamieson reviewed the 2023-2025 strategic plan. It was voted to record receipt of the strategic plan.
- Rodney Mills, vice president for administration, shared a conference membership report.
- At 2022 year end, membership stands at 27,007. These numbers signal that church membership is back on the rise following 2021.
- It was voted to approve church district realignments for Anchor Point/Irrigon/Heppner/Hermiston; Otis Orchards/Spokane North View; and Post Falls/Spirit Lake.
- It was voted to participate with an NPUC pilot project for 2023-2025. This includes financial support for a pilot church.

Financial update

- Allee Currier, vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- The annual tithe comparison for 2022 has

increased 0.18% as compared to 2021.

- The final budget for 2023 was presented and approved, based on 97.5% of 2022 tithe.
- It was voted to approve setting aside a portion of the 2022 net gain for a Washington Salary Threshold Transition Saving fund to assist with the financial transition likely needed in 2024 and 2025.

Education update

- Brian Harris, vice president for education, gave an update from the office of education.
- Personnel season is beginning, with ten known positions currently open for recruiting.
- Stephanie Gates, principal at Cascade Christian Academy, Wenatchee, gave an update on the academy.
- A UCC-wide spiritual retreat for 7th and 8th graders, titled 7UP, will be held in the fall at Camp MiVoden.
- It was voted to elect Jeremiah Smart (pastor); Susan Crain (region 3); and Maria Bastien (region 4) to the UCC Board of Education.

ACTIONS TAKEN AT 5.4.23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Administration update

- David Jamieson, president, presented a devotional on Matthew 8. The devotional focused on how people will be drawn to churches that lift up Jesus every single Sabbath. Jamieson reviewed the 2023-2025 strategic plan and unveiled the five key initiatives of 2023. These include launch and implement the strategic plan; visit all 126 churches and 33 schools and pre-schools; create a roadmap to navigate the Washington Salary Threshold; evaluate the sustainability of UCC camp meeting; and prepare for the 79th session of the UCC Constituency.
- A report was presented from the Constitution & Bylaws Committee regarding proposed changes to the bylaws to bring to Constituency Session.
- It was voted to approve the organization of Richland Spanish Adventist Company as a church and recommend their acceptance into the sisterhood of churches at the next Constituency Session.
- The executive committee moved into executive session to discuss a sensitive issue.
- It was voted to recommend to the next Constituency Session the sale of Upper Columbia Mission Society's 1/2 interest in a nearby land parcel. This property is located outside the northeast corner of the fenced conference property and has been assessed for \$16,430.

Financial update

- Allee Currier, vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- The year-to-date tithe comparison for March 2023 has increased 12.81% as compared to the same period of 2022.
- Working capital continues to increase following the significant drop in 2019. While six months are recommended, the conference is now at 4.21, but steadily growing each year.
- Washington Salary Threshold continues to impact finances, but through God's blessings and faithful giving from members the conference operates with stability.

Education update

- Brian Harris, vice president for education, gave an update from the office of education.
- Recruiting teachers for 2023-2024 school year continues, with Harris making several trips to colleges throughout the west to meet with graduating seniors.
- Holley Bryant, head of schools for Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools, presented a report of the new affiliation between Rogers Adventist School and Walla Walla Valley Academy.

