

“DON’T MISS YOUR BREAKTHROUGH”

MATTHEW 19:16-22

INTRODUCTION

ONE OF THE MOST FRUSTRATING THINGS IN THE WORLD IS TO MISS SOMETHING THAT WAS IMPORTANT.

THOSE SIGNIFICANT TIMES WHERE IT IS REQUIRED TO SHOW A LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY, TIMELINESS OR PERSONAL COMMITMENT THAT CAN HAVE SHORT-TERM OR LIFE-LONG IMPLICATIONS.

SHORT-TERM AS IN:

GETTING DRESSED FOR WORK, GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF GETTING PREPARED FOR WORK, SHOWERING, HAVING BREAKFAST, PACKING THE PAPERWORK INTO A BRIEFCASE, GOING OVER AN AGENDA IN YOUR HEAD, PREPARING A BIG DAY AT WORK, ONLY TO GET TO THE BUS STOP OR TROLLEY STATION WHEN THE BUS OR TROLLEY IS PULLING AWAY AND NO MATTER HOW YOU YELL KICK AND SCREAM – IT’S NOT STOPPING FOR YOU.

OR:

YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LIGHTS WILL BE CUT OFF FOR THE WEEKEND AND YOU’RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE POWER COMPANY NO LATER THAN 6 P.M., AND YOU DRIVE ON THE INTERSTATE ONLY TO BE CAUGHT UP IN THE WORST TRAFFIC YOU HAVE EVER SEEN, THEN WHEN IT FINALLY MOVES YOU ARE BEHIND THE WORLD’S SLOWEST DRIVER AND YOU ZIP AROUND THEM ONLY TO WIND UP BEHIND THE WORLD’S SECOND SLOWEST DRIVER, AND THEN A SCHOOL BUS FLASHES IT’S RED LIGHTS, AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU’RE HAVING COMPANY OVER THAT NIGHT AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU’VE GOT SOME THINGS

GOING ON AT THE HOUSE OVER THE WEEKEND, AND YOU GET TO THE POWER COMPANY AND GRAB THE DOORS TO SWING THEM OPEN – ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE LOCKED UP BECAUSE IT'S 6:02 P.M. AND NO MATTER HOW YOU CURSE – YOUR LIGHTS ARE NOW OUT.

OR:

YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING YOUR VACATION FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS – YOU'RE TIRED OF THE COLD WEATHER AND YOU'VE MADE PLANS TO FLY TO THE BAHAMAS OR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS OR FLORIDA JUST TO GET AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS. BUT ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT YOU REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR LUGGAGE AND YOU GRABBED YOUR KEYS AND YOU GRABBED YOUR WALLET, BUT THE TICKET AND DRIVER'S LICENSE IS BACK HOME ON THE COFFEE TABLE – BUT YOU DON'T REALIZE IT UNTIL YOU GET TO THE AIRPORT, AND YOU TURN AROUND AND DRIVE BACK HOME AND THE POLICE STOP YOU BECAUSE INSTEAD OF GOING 55 YOU'RE DRIVING 95. YOU GET TO THE AIRPORT, AND YOU FIGURE THAT YOUR PLANE WILL BE OKAY – IT'S 10 MINUTES LATE ALL OF THE TIME – BUT THIS TIME, THE PILOT'S ON TIME, THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT'S ON TIME, THE PASSENGERS (EXCEPT YOU) ARE ON TIME – AND INSTEAD OF LAYING ON A BEACH WITH A MAI TAI IN YOUR HAND, YOU ARE AT HOME, COLD, MISERABLE AND ANGRY. AND NO MATTER HOW YOU FLIP OUT AT THE AIRPORT – YOU'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND.

THESE SHORT TERM EXAMPLES MAY SOUND FAMILIAR, BUT I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A LONG TERM SCENARIO THAT COMES INTO PLAY AS WE FOCUS THIS YEAR, ON “A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU.”

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS – YOU MAY BE CLOSE TO OR AT THE POINT OF MAKING A BREAKTHROUGH – AND IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU MAY MISS IT.

WHAT IS A BREAKTHROUGH?

IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WALKING IN VICTORY INSTEAD OF WALKING IN DEFEAT.

- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOY AND SORROW.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPIRITUAL AND CARNAL.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RAPTURE AND DEPRESSION.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAITH AND DOUBT.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALL YOU NEED AND COMPLAINING ABOUT WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOING TO THE HOSPITAL CONFIDENT INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE HOSPITAL WORRIED.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOING TO WORSHIP AND COMING TO CHURCH.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUSTING GOD AND TRUSTING IN YOU.**
- **IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING A LIFE OF PRAYER AND HAVING A LIFE OF MISERY.**

IN OTHER WORDS A BREAKTHROUGH IS; THAT THING,
 THAT MOVE, THAT MOTIVE, THAT APPARATUS, THAT LEAP
 – THAT TAKES YOU BEYOND THE COMMON AND MOVES
 YOU INTO THE SUPERNATURAL –

IT'S THAT PLACE THAT TAKES YOU FORWARD,
 NEVER WANTING TO LOOK BACK,

AND FOR SOMEBODY HERE, IT'S THE DIFFERENCE
 BETWEEN STAYING IN YOUR SINS AND GIVING YOUR LIFE
 TO JESUS.

I'VE COME TO DECLARE TO YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR
NEIGHBORS, AND YES, EVEN TO THE DEVIL, THAT, THIS
IS THE YEAR THAT BREAKTHROUGH CAN COME TO YOUR
LIFE.

I WANT TO DECLARE OVER YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN
LIVE FREE OF SATAN'S WILES BY LIVING YOUR LIFE NOT
 IN A.D. OR B.C. BUT IN A.M.B. – AFTER MY BREAKTHROUGH.

I WISH I HAD SOMEBODY HERE WHO CAN TESTIFY THAT
JESUS CAN MAKE ALL OF THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE.

CAN YOU JUST THINK BACK TO HOW YOU USED TO BE?
 WHAT YOU USE TO HAVE? HOW YOU USE TO ACT? WHAT
 YOU USE TO WEAR?

BUT TOUCH YOUR NEIGHBOR AND TELL THEM, “BABY I'VE
BEEN DELIVERED. I'VE EXPERIENCED MY
BREAKTHROUGH – AND IF THE LORD CAN CHANGE ME –
HE CAN CHANGE YOU TOO.”

TELL THEM, “BUT DON'T MISS YOUR BREAKTHROUGH!
THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY! THIS MIGHT BE
YOUR LAST CHANCE! THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST YEAR!
FOR A MEANINGFUL, DIRECT, SPIRITUAL, AND POWERFUL
BREAKTHROUGH IN YOUR LIFE.”

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

OUR TEXT IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF HOW SIGNIFICANT A BREAKTHROUGH CAN BE – AND HOW TRAGIC IT IS WHEN YOU MISS OUT ON YOUR BREAKTHROUGH.

OUR TEXT IS A TRANSCRIPT OF A CONVERSATION HELD BETWEEN JESUS OUR CHRIST AND A YOUNG MAN WHO IS NOT NAMED, BUT IS KNOWN BY MOST OF US AS THE RICH YOUNG RULER.

HISTORY HAS PEGGED THIS TITLE UPON HIM, IGNORING HIS NAME, HIS BIOGRAPHY, HIS HERITAGE, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE IS INTERACTION BETWEEN JESUS AND THIS YOUNG MAN:

HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE JESUS.

- **HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE SALVATION.**
- **HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A WAY OUT OF NO WAY.**
- **HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A PRAYER LIFE.**
- **HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ETERNAL SECURITY.**
- **HE HAS A TITLE – BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE PEACE IN HIS LIFE.**

AND LET ME THROW THIS IN FOR FREE, BEFORE WE LOOK AT THIS – DON'T LET YOUR TITLE STOP YOU FROM COMING TO JESUS!

THIS YOUNG MAN CAME TO JESUS AND HIS TITLE DIDN'T GET INTO THE WAY!

JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A TITLE, DOESN'T MAKE YOU MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ONE WHO HAS MORE TITLES THAN WE COULD EVER NAME.

HE COMES TO JESUS AND THREE THINGS HAPPEN:

(I). FIRST, HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE TRUTH.

JESUS RESPONDS TO THE YOUNG MAN'S OPENING INTERROGATIVE, "GOOD MASTER, WHAT SHALL I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE."

I NEED TO EXPLAIN TO US THAT YOU CAN INHERIT A HOUSE, BUT YOU CANNOT INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

- YOU CAN INHERIT A BANK ACCOUNT, BUT YOU CAN'T INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.
- YOU CAN INHERIT CLOTHING, BUT YOU CAN'T INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE.

THIS YOUNG MAN NEEDED A BREAKTHROUGH –

HE PROBABLY HAD HEARD ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE – BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE – HE WANTED IT HANDED TO HIM ON A SILVER PLATTER WITHOUT ANY EFFORT.

HE WAS LOOKING FOR A SPIRITUAL LOOPHOLE – BUT LET ME TELL SOMEBODY, IF YOU WANT TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE, IT'S NOT INHERITED – TO GAIN IT, YOU MUST ENTER INTO IT!

- YOU CAN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE BY GOOD LOOKS.
- YOU CAN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE BY FAMILY CONNECTIONS.
- YOU CAN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE BY PAYING A FEE.
- YOU CAN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE BY OSMOSIS.
- YOU CAN'T GET ETERNAL LIFE BY WHERE YOU SIT IN CHURCH.

NO, NO, NO – ETERNAL LIFE MUST BE ENTERED INTO.

THIS YOUNG MAN SAYS, “GOOD MASTER, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?”

AND JESUS LOOKS LIKE HIS RESPONSE SKILLS MUST BE GETTING RUSTY – HE TAKES ISSUE WITH HIM CALLING HIM GOOD AND THEN HE CONFRONTS HIM WITH TRUTH. CHECK IT OUT:

I KNOW YOU KNOW THE COMMANDMENTS, “*DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT KILL, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.*” AND THE YOUNG MAN SAYS, I KEPT THESE FROM MY YOUTH UP.

BUT THE YOUNG MAN FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT JESUS ONLY MENTIONED *FIVE* OF THE COMMANDMENTS AND THE FIVE HE MENTIONED ARE THE PROBITAS PORTION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND NOT THE PIETAS PORTION.

IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS GAVE HIM FIVE COMMANDMENTS THAT HAD EVERYTHING TO DO WITH MAN, HIS HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIP, BUT DID NOT MENTION THE PIETAS, OR THE FIVE COMMANDS THAT HAD TO DO WITH 'GOD'.

JESUS KNEW THAT HE HAD DONE WELL WITH DEALING WITH MAN – BUT JESUS IS TRYING TO CONFRONT HIM

WITH A DEEPER TRUTH, AND I WANT TO DEAL WITH A DEEPER TRUTH AS WELL:

**I KNOW PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE THE LIFE OF THE PARTY,
CAUSE YOU TELL A JOKE OR TWO, BUT THE QUESTION IS –**

**I KNOW THAT PEOPLE KNOW YOU AND LOVE YOU AND
RESPECT YOU AND YOU'RE KIND,**

**YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH NOBODY YOU HAD NO
BUSINESS SLEEPING WITH,**

AND YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ANYBODY,

AND YOU HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHING FROM ANYBODY,

AND YOU HAVEN'T RUN AROUND TELLING LIES,

**AND YOU HAVEN'T DISRESPECTED YOUR MOMMA AND
YOUR DAD –**

- **IT LOOKS LIKE YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PEOPLE
AND YOU KNOW HOW TO LOVE PEOPLE AND
RESPECT HUMAN LIFE – BUT WHAT ABOUT GOD ?**
- **DON'T TELL ME ABOUT YOUR POLITICAL
AFFILIATION AND WHAT A GOOD DEMOCRAT YOU
ARE – HOW ARE YOU AND GOD GETTING ALONG?**
- **DON'T TELL ME ABOUT HOW MANY MEALS ON
WHEELS YOU HELPED PREPARE LAST WEEK – DO
YOU KNOW THE ONE WHO IS A WHEEL IN THE
MIDDLE OF A WHEEL?**
- **DON'T TELL ME ABOUT HOW POPULAR YOU ARE IN
THE COMMUNITY AND HOW YOU SPEAK TO
EVERYONE ON YOUR BLOCK – WHEN WAS THE LAST
TIME YOU TALKED TO JESUS?**

- DON'T TELL ME ABOUT HOW UPRIGHT AND LAW ABIDING ARE YOU – HOW ARE YOU AND GOD GETTING ALONG?

JESUS SAYS, I NEED TO CONFRONT YOU WITH TRUTH SO YOU CAN SEE BEYOND YOURSELF.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT SOME PEOPLE DON'T COME TO THE LORD BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING OKAY ALREADY.

BUT BABY, WITHOUT JESUS YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A SHIP WITHOUT A SAIL, A CAR WITHOUT A BATTERY, A BLING WITHOUT A BLING, AND A SONG WITHOUT A CHORUS.

I KNOW SOME FOLK WHO CAN GET ALONG WITH ANYBODY – EXCEPT GOD.

THEY ARE SMOOTH OPERATORS BUT THEY LACK A TANGIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

(II). SECONDLY, HE'S CONFRONTED BY A THESIS.

CHECK IT OUT – THE RICH YOUNG RULER DECIDES TO PLAY ATTORNEY AND PLEAD HIS CASE BEFORE THE LORD – “LORD, I'VE KEPT ALL OF THESE PRINCIPLES” – MY MORAL LIFE'S BEEN PURE; MY LEGAL LIFE IS CLEAN; MY RESPECT TO HUMAN LIFE IS CLEAR; MY LEGALISM IS UPRIGHT; MY FAMILY RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD. “LORD, I'VE DONE THOSE FIVE FROM MY YOUTH UP”.

HERE'S THE PROBLEM – FIRST, HE HASN'T LIVED THAT LONG. AND SECONDLY, JESUS NEVER ACCUSED HIM OF NOT FOLLOWING THOSE FIVE RELATIONSHIP ISSUES –

MATTER OF FACT, THE LORD SAID, YOU KNOW THE 'PROBITAS' PARTS OF THE COMMANDMENTS – BUT YOUR PROBLEM IS NOT YOUR 'PROBITAS', IT'S YOUR 'PIETAS'.

AND WHAT'S KEEPING YOU MESSED UP IS THAT YOU LACK ONE THING

MARK - IN THIS SAME STORY SAYS YOU LACK ONE THING,

LUKE - SAYS YOU LACK ONE THING,

BUT MATTHEW -SAYS, YOU WOULD BE PERFECT, YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING – THERE IS SOMETHING, THERE IS A POINT THAT IS HINDERING YOU FROM YOUR BREAKTHROUGH –

AND IT'S NOT YOUR SEX LIFE, IT'S NOT YOUR MORALITY, IT'S NOT YOUR LEGALISM, IT'S NOT YOUR VERBAL CONDUCT, IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW YOU TREAT YOUR PARENTS, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING IN YOUR CORE THAT'S STOPPING YOU – YOU ARE MORE ATTRACTED TO YOUR STUFF THAN YOU ARE TO GOD.

NOW, BEFORE WE BEAT UP ON THIS YOUNG MAN – THERE ARE SOME FOLK IN HERE RIGHT NOW THAT COULD EXPERIENCE A BREAKTHROUGH WITH GOD – ENJOY A FELLOWSHIP VERTICALLY WITH THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY GHOST, BUT YOUR STUFF – THE THINGS THAT YOU HOLD ON TO, IS IN THE WAY.

THIS YOUNG MAN'S 'RICHES' WERE IN THE WAY – JESUS SAYS, SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE.

I HEAR YOU THINKING – GOD MUST WANT ME BROKE.

- NO!, IF GOD WANTED YOU BROKE, HE WOULD HAVE NEVER SAID, "BRING YE THE TITHES INTO THE STOREHOUSE."
- IF GOD WANTED YOU BROKE HE WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN PRESENT DURING AN OFFERING WHEN THE WIDOW WOMAN BROUGHT THE VERY LAST THAT SHE HAD.

- **IF GOD WANTED YOU BROKE, HE'D HAVE NEVER GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO MAKE OR EARN MONEY.**

NO !, GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO BE BROKE, BUT THIS YOUNG MAN'S WEAKNESS IS NOT MONEY – IT'S REALLY PRIDE.

- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO TREASURES ON EARTH INSTEAD OF TREASURES IN HEAVEN.**
- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO HIS FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO.**
- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO HIS STOCKS AND CDS.**
- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO THE STOCK MARKET.**
- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO HIS ACCOUNTING FIRM OF SIMON & SHUSTER.**
- **HE WAS MORE ATTACHED TO HIS ONLINE SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

IT'S NOT THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE POOR OR FOR ANY OF US IN HERE TO GIVE ALL OF YOUR MONEY AWAY, BECAUSE IF THAT WERE THE CASE – NONE OF US WOULD BE IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW.

GOD WANTS YOU TO SWITCH POSITIONS – HE *DOESN'T* WANT YOU *THINKING* THAT YOU'RE AN OWNER, THE THESIS HERE IS – HE WANTS YOU TO OPERATE AS A STEWARD - AND VIEW EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE NOT IN THE EYES OF AN OWNER – BUT EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE COMES FROM JESUS !

EVERYTHIN! ...

- **MY CAR – COMES FROM JESUS.**

- **MY HOUSE – COMES FROM JESUS.**
- **MY FAMILY – COMES FROM JESUS.**
- **MY FRIENDS – COME FROM JESUS.**
- **MY CHURCH – COMES FROM JESUS.**
- **MY EDUCATION – COMES FROM JESUS.**

MOST OF ALL – MYSELF, ALL THAT I AM – I DON'T HAVE TO LOSE MYSELF, BUT I DO HAVE TO RELINQUISH OWNERSHIP OF MYSELF.

AND THAT TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF OF ME – BECAUSE WHEN I HAVE PROBLEMS IN AN AREA – I DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO FIX IT – IT'S NOT MINE, IT'S HIS –

SO WHEN I HAVE A PROBLEM, I CALL ON HIM, BECAUSE I'M JUST HOLDING IT FOR HIM.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT SOME PEOPLE WANT TO OWN EVEN THEMSELVES,

BUT BABY, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THIS THING AS BEING A STEWARD INSTEAD OF AN OWNER –

- **WHEN MY BODY IS RACKED WITH PAIN – I CALL ON THE OWNER.**
- **WHEN TROUBLE IS IN MY LIFE, I CALL ON THE OWNER.**

- WHEN I CAN'T SEE LIKE I USED TO – I CALL ON THE OWNER.

MY BREAKTHROUGH IS BASED IN THIS THESIS – IT AIN'T MINE, IT'S HIS.

THIS RICH YOUNG RULER SERVED PEOPLE, BUT HIS STUFF STOPPED HIM FROM EXPERIENCING BREAKTHROUGH WITH GOD.

LET ME TELL SOMEBODY HERE – YOUR STUFF IS TEMPORARY! IT AIN'T GONNA LAST LONG!

- THAT HAIR WILL TURN TO GRAY.
- THAT FIGURE 8 WILL TURN INTO A FIGURE 0.
- THOSE PRETTY EYES CAN DEVELOP CATARACTS.
- THOSE SWAYING HIPS CAN BE REPLACED.
- THAT BLING BLING WILL TURN INTO RUST RUST.

(III). AND FINALLY, HE'S CONFUSED BY TREASURES.

A BREAKTHROUGH HERE WOULD HAVE MEANT SOMETHING LIFE CHANGING.

LUKE - DESCRIBES IT LIKE THIS – SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE, GIVE IT TO THE POOR, AND YOU'LL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN –

THAT SOUNDS HOLY AND PROPHETIC – BUT THEN JESUS USES SOME UNUSUAL WORDS:

(A). COME, FOLLOW ME.

THESE ARE NOT NEW WORDS. THIS IS NOT SOME NEW PHRASE JESUS PICKED UP IN CAPERNAUM.

HE DIDN'T SEE THIS ON T.D. JAKES OR GILBERT EARL PATTERSON'S BROADCAST.

NO, THESE ARE FAMILIAR WORDS.

- **HE USED THEM ORIGINALLY TO CALL THE DISCIPLES.**
- **THEY ARE THE SAME WORDS THAT HE USED TO CALL PETER, ANDREW, JOHN, JAMES, AND THE OTHER DISCIPLES.**
- **IF YOU READ THIS IN CONTEXT, JESUS WAS OFFERING HIM TO BE A DISCIPLE –**
- **I CALL HIM THE 13TH DISCIPLE – AND HE TURNED JESUS DOWN.**

DON'T LET ANYONE FOOL YOU:

- **THE SAME WORDS THAT SAVED MY GRANDMAMMA ARE THE SAME WORDS THAT SAVED MY MAMA.**
- **THE SAME WORDS THAT SAVED MY GRANDFATHER ARE THE SAME WORDS THAT SAVED MY DADDY.**
- **THE SAME WORDS THAT GAVE JOY TO MY MOM AND DAD ARE THE SAME WORDS THAT GIVE JOY IN MY HOUSE.**

IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING ABOUT COMING TO JESUS – BABY, HE'S ALREADY PUT OUT THE INVITATION. COME, FOLLOW ME. THERE IS STILL ROOM AT THE CROSS AND THE INVITATION HAS NOT CHANGED.

THIS RICH YOUNG RULER HEARD THE INVITATION.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE DISCIPLES.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT DISCIPLE, BUT HE WAS SORROWFUL WHEN HE HEARD THE INVITATION.

EVERY SUNDAY, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERMON, WE GIVE THE INVITATION – NOT THAT YOU WOULD FEEL SORROW, BUT THAT YOU MIGHT COME AND FOLLOW JESUS.

I WOULDN'T WAIT, IF I KNEW I NEEDED A CHANGE – I'D COME ON RIGHT NOW – AND GIVE MY HEART TO JESUS, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY BREAKTHROUGH.

IS THERE ANYBODY HERE – THAT CAN SEE THIS YOUNG MAN WALK AWAY – WITH HIS HEAD HUNG DOWN – SORROWFUL – FOR HE WAS VERY RICH.

LET ME ADD THE WORDS, TEMPORARILY RICH.

- **I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER HAD ANOTHER CHANCE.**
- **I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER HEARD JESUS AGAIN.**
- **I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER HAD A CHANCE TO SEE JESUS AGAIN.**
- **I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER HAD A CHANCE TO BLESS THE LORD.**

AND I'M TALKING TO SOMEONE HERE TODAY – THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST CHANCE.

THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY. COME UNTO JESUS AND EXPERIENCE THIS BREAKTHROUGH!

CONCLUSION

I'M CLOSING BUT THERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS LATE FOR HIS PLANE.

HE WAS DASHING THROUGH THE AIRPORT AND HE KNEW HE ONLY HAD A MINUTE.

HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT HE REMEMBERED THAT PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.

HE STOPPED IN THE AIRPORT, AND SAID FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS PLANE. HELP ME IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

HE RAN TO THE GATE, ALL THE PASSENGERS WERE ON THE PLANE.

HE RAN TO THE DESK, AND GAVE THE TICKET TO THE AGENT.

THE AGENT, SAID WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU, BECAUSE WE WEREN'T ABOUT TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU.

THE PILOT CAME OUT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS HERE – BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT WASN'T HERE,

AND WHEN HE SAW YOUR NAME, HE SAID, WE'VE GOT TO WAIT.

THE MAN'S FIRST NAME WAS LORD, HIS MIDDLE NAME WAS HAVE, AND HIS LAST NAME WAS MERCY.

YOU PUT THEM TOGETHER, AND IF YOU WANT YOUR BREAKTHROUGH – IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE, LORD, HAVE MERCY.

- IF YOU ARE SICK AND WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED AND WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE ON DRUGS AND WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE AN ALCAHOLIC AND WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE, “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND OR WIFE AND WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE, “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE LOST AND IN YOUR SINS, AND YOU WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE, “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- IF YOU ARE SINKING DEEP IN SIN, FAR FROM THE PEACEFUL SHORE, VERY DEEPLY STAIN WITHIN, SINKING TO RISE NO MORE, AND YOU WANT YOUR BREAK THROUGH, IT HAS TO BE, “LORD HAVE MERCY.”
- BUT WHEN YOU SAY, “LORD HAVE MERCY,” THE MAST OF THE SEA WILL HEAR YOUR DESPAIRING CRY, AND FROM THE WATERS HE WILL LIFT YOU AND ME, AND WE CAN SING, SAFE AM I,”
- BECAUSE IF I GET MY BREAK THROUGH, IT WILL BE BECAUSE, LOVE LIFTED ME, LOVE LIFTED ME, WHEN NOTHING ELSE COULD HELP, GOD’S LOVE LIFTED ME.”

BECAUSE OF GOD’S LOVE, I GOT MY BREAK THROUGH:

- LOVE WENT TO CALVARY FOR ME;
- LOVE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR ME;

- **LOVE WENT INTO SHEOAL HELL FOR ME;**
- **LOVE STAYED IN THE GRAVE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS FOR ME;**
- **BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, LOVE GOT UP OUT OF THAT GRAVE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.**
- **POWER TO GIVE ME MY BREAK THROUGH;
YES...YES...YES...OH YES...**