

GOD'S CAPACITY

God favours the humble from His unique place as Lord of the impossible.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ As God's children, we occupy a very significant place. Unfortunately, many of us don't fully realize this, so we sell ourselves short on the one hand and take unwise risk on the other. Most importantly, we can frustrate God's plan for us and for His Church.
- ❖ God wants us to excel for His glory, and when we consider who He really is, and what He really wants for us, we can tap fully into God's capacity and become everything He created us to be.
- ❖ In the book of Acts, Stephen was brought before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin. In his speech that was the catalyst for his martyrdom (Acts 7:44-50), Stephen outlined Israel's history in their relationship with God. He made the case through a repetitive theme where God visited His people and they rejected Him, which ultimately led to their rejection of Jesus.
- ❖ King David wanted to build a house for the Lord, something that was accomplished by his son, Solomon. And though Solomon's temple would attract international fame for its magnificence, that magnificence paled in significance to the splendour of the earth with its majestic mountains, oceans and life forms. And, yet, the earth is described as God's footstool, a humble piece of furniture that exists only as a place to rest one's feet.
- ❖ In Bible times, being near feet or having to touch feet was dishonourable. Feet were dirty, and cleaning them was the job of the lowest servant. To be at a place near someone's feet—at a footstool, for example—was humbling. That's why it was so startling when Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:4-5).
- ❖ There is no place for pride in our hearts. We ought to be self-aware and know that we are severely limited in our capacity to control our lives. This will prevent us from taking foolish risks. But, then, when we understand that the One whose foot rests on our world is actually seeking us who are in this world, it opens us up to a world of opportunity.
- ❖ This knowledge should cause us to walk with confidence because of the One who is behind us. But we first have to think differently because how we think determines how we behave, and how we behave determines what we become.
- ❖ Now, the throne, which is a symbol of authority and influence, is full of much more grandeur than the footstool. People bow before thrones. They are reserved as seating for significant leaders, like kings.
- ❖ Heaven, the aspiration of all Christians, is described as God's throne. We look to a place beyond this life where there are symbolic streets of gold and mansions, where there is community and where there are no more tears. Where the limitations of our flesh are set aside and we

KEY SCRIPTURES (NIV): Acts 7:44-50, 17:24-25; Isaiah 57:15 (KJV), 66:1-2; Matthew 5:35, 19:26; Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:27

- assume the freedom of angels.
- ❖ As inconceivable as heaven is, Stephen reminded his audience that this was only God's throne. God sits in majesty over our highest aspirations, our wildest dreams. The place we imagine to be the ultimate, that's what bears Him up as His throne.
- ❖ If heaven is God's throne and He sits upon it, then He dwells in the inconceivable, the impossible.
- ❖ Jesus told His disciples that what is impossible with man is possible with God (Matthew 19:26). And when Abraham and Sarah dealt with an impossible situation in Genesis 8:14, God said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
- ❖ And here's the mind blower that gives us all confidence: From that place of unknowable knowledge, God reaches down to earth—His footstool—to us. And how do we access His hand? Isaiah 57:15 gives us the answer: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."
- ❖ We are fully aware of our own limitations and inability to live up to the vision God has called us to. We cannot compare ourselves with anyone else. Yet the fact that God brings the unknowable, the impossible, to us from beyond heaven—this gives us the confidence to step out and become everything He created us to be for His glory and to the benefit of humankind.
- ❖ God's capacity is unlimited. That's what He's bringing to us, so let us come together in unity to take our future. Let's become the very best that God created us to be. And let us rest in Him and believe Him to bring the vision to pass in our lives and therefore in the life of the church.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What do/did you consider as one or more of your limitations? How did you or how can one break free of such thinking? What are some scriptures that one can use to encourage themselves?
2. "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" (Gen. 8:14). What are some of the "impossible" situations in the Bible where God showed He was in control? Have "impossible" situations occurred in your or a loved one's life? Testify. How did God work things out?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, Your capacity is unlimited. Help me to take the limits off my own thinking and truly believe You're Lord of the impossible.

Start-up: What is your limit (i.e., how many tasks can you take on, how much of your favourite food can you eat, how much whining can you bear, etc.)?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 🌱 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)

⚡ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↗️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD