

New Series: “Reclaimed”

- HGTV...lots of shows like “Flea Market Flip” [or American Picker] that gives things that seems to no longer have value and come to show they continue to have great value; RECLAIMED barn wood is another good example - old boards that may be part of a falling down, jallopodated structure are given new life, new purpose, and the fact that they are of great value is once again revealed; this is not unlike what Jesus does for us and for people throughout the Gospels as they are shown that they are of GREAT VALUE to the Father and that God is not done with them yet
- 6 weeks away from the hallmark event of the Christian faith=Easter (April 1st - also going to have Baptism Celebration that Sunday - will talk more about that as gets closer)
- Beginning our journey toward Easter
- We are going to spend our entire journey just in the Gospel of Luke, starting in the 9th chapter of Luke, where Scripture says that Jesus’ face was “set towards Jerusalem.” - he is on his ‘final ascent’
- Luke 9:51 Emphasis
- Jesus used every chance he had on his way to Jerusalem to claim / re-claim those he encountered on the way to the Cross, to show they have GREAT value to the Father and that God is not done with them yet, and though He knows what awaits Him, but **that doesn’t hinder the way that Jesus heals, saves, restores & loves along the way...**
- As hear their stories, we see Jesus reclaiming each one from something that is keeping them from experiencing authentic community with God, the same kind of things that keep us from experiencing authentic community with God; Jesus not content to let them continue on the trajectory they are on, but re-routes towards the love and community of the Father

Tension/Common Ground

- Trajectory that we’re all on if left to our own devices is impurity and separation = Human Condition
 - **WORSHIP NOTE 1:** Impurity (Sin) separates us from God



- We are going to see in today's scripture a boy who is separated from his father by an impure spirit. Which parallels how we are separated from the Father due to our impurities
- Fortunately for the boy and us, Jesus is the powerful Son of God!

- Our Journey begins in the 9th chapter of Luke, verses 37—43 (boy healed from a demon)

Luke 9:37-43 (NIV)

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him.

- Follows the account of the Transfiguration - a glimpse into the true Person of Jesus; get a chance to see the man behind the curtain, just like the wizard of Oz
- Transfiguration= Jesus on a mountain with the inner three disciples, changed in appearance, Moses and Elijah. Jesus' true identity made known (God in flesh)
- Story continues to reveal who Jesus is and what He can do, revealing that Jesus is not only God's Son, but One is willing and able to go up against the spiritual forces of wickedness, and win! Today's story just one of handfuls of accounts where Jesus casts out unclean spirits (One of the three things that he did in earthly ministry= Kingdom, Demons, and healing)!

38 A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child.

We learn it is his only child—current physical and emotional challenges with what is happening, but the possession also impacts the family socially and economically (no contribution to the household, no support in old age) This is a grave picture of the family's reality and suffering

- Brent being the only son, I was going to talk to the Marine recruiter and if something happened I would be gone- 4 sisters and only son- heartache of my mother

39 A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him.

- **Hard for the Father...The feelings of a Father...My sister falling in the fire**
- **Terrifying scene to come up on for Jesus and the inner three**
- Emergency Responders and the kind of scenes they come up on (Parkland, Florida)

40 I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

28 MARK's Account: After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting"... We don't really have time to get into that today...

41 "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

- Jesus was frustrated, harsh words spoken by Jesus, don't know the source of the frustration= 1. Ready to be with the Father, 2. Because he thought disciples should have been able to drive it out

42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

- What did Jesus do!?
 - Rebuked the impure spirit
 - Then; healed the boy!
 - Then; gave him back to his father PRAISE JESUS!
- All the drama before: Son thrown in fire, seizes him, disciples couldn't drive it out, laundry list of things, others couldn't do 'it' then Jesus comes Rebukes Rescues and Restores him to the father AMAZING

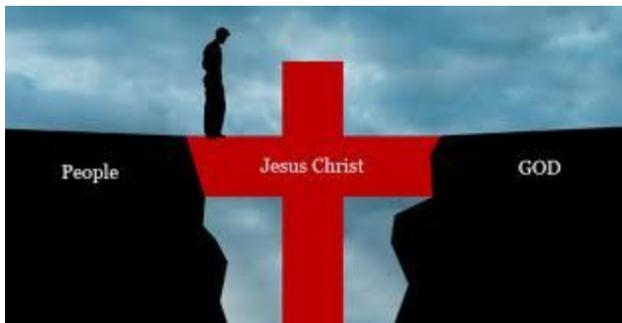
- **Worship Note #2:** Jesus Rebukes, Rescues, and Restores those separated=Reclaimed!
- Reclaimed in this case= Rebukes, Rescues, Restores
 - All in All, Jesus "Reclaims" the boy back to God...the impure spirit could not have him...THE BOY WAS OF GREAT VALUE TO GOD - GOD WASN'T DONE WITH HIM YET

IMAGINE the SON HAS BEEN RESTORED TO HIS FATHER

- He had been with him for all these years, but not really, now they could be in real relationship - JOY; HOPE; PEACE
- The impure spirit and troubles no longer separated them or hindered their intimacy as Father and son
- Jesus had made a way for them to be in authentic community with one another

THIS IS WHAT JESUS DOES FOR US

- Brings us back into community with the Father - restores us - despite our Human Condition (We suck!)
- Jesus bridges the gap between us and God through his death on the Cross
- SOME FEEL LIKE NOT ABLE TO BE CLOSE TO GOD - THAT'S GOD'S DESIRE...



43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

- Interesting phrasing, 'greatness of God' (not Jesus per se), Glory goes to the father, what was revealed on the mountain top (Transfiguration) is now revealed on full display for ALL to see

Closing

- **LET JESUS RECLAIM YOU (REBUKE that which needs rebuked, Rescues you, and RESTORE you to full community with the Father and others)**
- Rebuke spirits of FEAR, OPPRESSION, BONDAGE, DEPRESSION, spirit of IMPURITY; WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF JOY, PASSION, PEACE AND LOVE