Lesson #6 The Nature of God’s Sovereignty

*If you listen awhile in Christian circles, you will often hear the goodness of God in question. So many times, in response to difficult events or unanswered prayers, we hear people say things like:*

 *“God’s in control.” “We know God’s allowing this.” “God must have needed another angel in heaven.” “Lord, please heal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, if it be Thy will.” “God must be teaching me/him/her something.”*

*It's important to question the thoughts we have been thinking for years and years; and take a deep look as to whether they agree with scripture. Whether or not you even ‘believe’ them or have they just become old thought loops. Habitual ways of thinking that have gone unchallenged.*

*Is God sovereign? What does sovereign even mean?*

***Sovereign/ a supreme ruler, possessing supreme or ultimate power, done independently and without outside powers.***

*I believe that God is sovereign. He’s the top of the top. He’s omnipotent (all powerful). A lot of Christian sayings and/or teachings teach that in God’s sovereignty that He either directly causes or allows everything that happens in life.*

*In the Garden of Eden God gave all dominion to Adam. In the fall Adam gave his dominion away to satan. At the cross, the ‘Son of Man’ (very important title) took dominion back, gave it back to His mankind, who follows after Him,* **(Luke 10:19),** *and made us joint-heirs with Christ* **(Romans 8:17)**, *so as not to lose our dominion ever again.*

**Luke 10:19** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

**Psalms 115:16** The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.

*The verse above is connected to why Jesus needed to come in the form of a man. This shows that He had given the earth to man. He had to become a man to do the work of taking dominion out of satan’s hand, but He had to do it without breaking His word or His divine laws.*

**Hebrews 6:18 & Titus 1:2** … it is impossible for God to lie or to go back on His Word. Amen!

**Psalm 138:2** I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

*God’s Word is solid…!!!* *Think about this… What good is your name if your word is not trustworthy. God’s Word is very important to Him.*

**John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

*The devil is the thief. He is the author of theft, murder, and destruction. God is the author of life and wants us to experience life in abundance.*

*Q. From this verse what is the true nature of God? And what does abundant life look like for you?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

*Q. What is God ‘not willing’ to happen in this passage?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Q. Is His will coming to pass in this regard?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

*Let’s look at healing as an example of God’s will, God’s goodness, verses our preconceived notions. Read the Word like you’ve never heard it before. Like it’s brand new to you.*

**Matthew 8:16** When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,
**Matthew 14:14** And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. **Matthew 19:2** And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. **Matthew 21:14**Then *the* blind and *the* lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. **Matthew 12:15** And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.
**Mark 6:56** Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well. **Luke 4:40, 5:17, 6:19, 9:1, 9:11**

*Q. Is there a scripture anywhere in the New Testament where God/Jesus refused to heal someone?
A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Luke 9:1** Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

**Matthew 10:8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

*Q. According to the 2 scriptures above did God qualify who could or could not be healed by His disciples?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Q. Can you find any scriptures that imply God wills to heal some and not others? Or is this possibly mankind’s summation when they don’t see healing manifest?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Q. Do you think we can then ‘know’ the will of God then, regarding healing? And if we can know the will of God, how would that change the way we pray for the sick?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*We have to be really certain that what we are believing is the Bible and not our experiences and observations. It is very common to base our doctrine more on ‘our experiences’ than on the Word of God. When we do this, we are subconsciously trying to make God in our image. This is called an idol in the New Testament. This is detrimental for spiritual growth, for results, for our peace with God. Even when we are not experiencing God or His promises it is wisdom to just praise Him and not try to explain Him away. The Word is always right!*

**Luke 4:18-19** “The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind,
*To* set at liberty those who are oppressed; **19**To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

*This is one of our scriptures from last week. We are right now in the favorable/acceptable year of the Lord. And during this time, He is blessing the poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed. God’s will is life. Zoe life. Abundant God kind of life.*

*This passage in* ***Luke 4:18-19*** *is being read by Jesus in the temple. He is reading out of the book of Isaiah. Had he read the next verse in Isaiah 61 we would have gotten a different picture; but He didn’t. He intentionally stopped reading and put the scroll down, and this is what it says next…*

**Luke 4:20-21**Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. **21**And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

*Had he read further in Isaiah it would have said, “And the day of vengeance of our God.” Jesus knew that He would satisfy God’s vengeance… and He did. His last words on the cross… “It is finished.”*

*Q. What is finished?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. Our Lord came in the form of man to do a work for us we could not do for ourselves. He came to show us the true character of our Father… loving, kind, generous, tenderhearted, compassionate…*

*Jesus bore all our sin. God looked away as Jesus died alone in our place, laden with our guilt, our shame, our condemnation, our sin, and our diseases. God is sovereign, and as a sovereign ruler he has given us authority. He has the power, but He’s given us the ‘authority’ to carry out His will!*

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as *it is* in heaven.

*Q. What is God’s will?*

*A. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*A. His Word. God’s Word is God’s Will. A testament is a will. We are children of the New Testament, New Covenant, New Will of God. He sent Jesus to fulfill the law and give us back what Adam lost. We have dominion. We must learn to walk in it.*