

## God's N.T.W. (Never Too Weak)

It started out as a nice family excursion.

I set out with Dorothy's and my parents to relive some of the good old days.

I should have known better.

The good old days can't be relived.

We found ourselves miles from where anyone lived, looking for a homestead.

We were completely out of sight of any building.

We were on a road that had not had any traffic for at least 36 hours.

It had rained 1 inch the day before our trip down memory lane.

And that is where we sat for 90 minutes.

The muck and stone of the road had filled up the rear wheel wells.

They were packed solid right from the tire to the cowling.

The car finally got to the point where it refused to move.

Trying to turn the clock back can be disastrous.

And that was what we almost experienced.

The rear wheels were in this death grip of grime.

It was as if the car was in park and the emergency break engaged.

When the car ground to a halt my dad offered to get out and push.

I convinced dad that his pushing would not help.

So he offered to drive so I could get out and push.

We needed something with a lot more power.

We didn't have the resources to provide that power.

For the next 90 minutes I chipped away to loosen the tires.

But at the pace I was progressing it would take hours.

The mothers were silently praying.

And God answered their prayers with a Good Samaritan.

A man saw our tracks and decided to follow them.

They led him right to us.

He helped free the wheels and get us on our way.

We can get bogged down in life just like we did trying to reach dad's homestead.

We aren't equipped to navigate through life's bogs.

There are ample opportunities to get stuck in life.

Ask any alcoholic or drug addict or gambler or prostitute about being stuck.

There is this sensation of being powerless to change.

There is a reason why their habits are called vices.

They get a grip on life that tightens and squeezes harder.

But it isn't just those struggling with the vices of life.

Our passage of Scripture shows us others who are stuck in life.

They were the religious leaders, the cream of society.

First the Pharisees had tried to arrest Jesus without success (Mt. 21:46).

Jesus had just called them miserable wretches because of their quest for power.

Then Jesus told a parable of His rejection by Israel and the Pharisees.

Those originally invited to the wedding feast refused to come.

They were bogged down in life (Mt. 22:5-6).

They even killed the king's servants so things didn't go so well for them.

Then the Pharisees tried to entangle Jesus in a debate (Mt. 22:15-22).

They failed again.

Then the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with the conversation we just read.

They failed.

Then the Pharisees tried to ensnare Jesus again (Mat. 22:34-46).  
They failed again.

All this shows how bogged down we can get in life.

**We can even get bogged down spiritually.**

Even the Pharisees with all their understanding were powerless.

If anyone looked like they had it together they certainly did.

They could quote the law.

They had studied the Scriptures.

But still they were bogged down.

**They were caught in a tradition that was powerless to save.**

But this Scripture also shows that **Jesus can never be confined.**

He has all power and all authority.

**Death cannot hold Him.**

**Human logic cannot ensnare Him.**

**God's will cannot be thwarted.**

And through Jesus' teachings we discover another truth about God.

**The truth is, no matter what life dishes out to you, "God's Never Too Weak."**

**God can handle anything we encounter.**

We, on the other hand, capsize or are swamped by the pressures of life.

Jesus said it is imperative that we know three things.

Only three things can keep us moving in the right direction.

Let's revisit the words Jesus spoke to the Sadducees.

The Sadducees refused to believe in the resurrection (Mt. 22:23).

And so they concocted this crazy story about a poor woman.

She was married seven times to seven brothers.

Brother one died so she married the next brother.

Brother two died and she married brother three.

Eventually she married the seventh brother.

**Can you read his mind?**

I'm sure he must have said something like, "I'm a dead man."

**This woman was sucking the sacred out of marriage and leaving everyone scared.**

"So, Jesus, whose wife will she be in heaven?"

Jesus didn't mince His words.

"You're wrong" He said.

You are wandering.

Someone has deceived you and seduced you.

You are way off base, out in left field.

You are delusional and therefore can't possibly get it right.

But I can tell you how to get it right if you want.

I can get you back on base.

I can set you free from your prejudice and wrong thinking.

## **I KNOW THE SCRIPTURES (vs. 29)**

There was a young boy who went to Sunday school without his parents.

When he got home his parents asked him what he learned.

With his face beaming he announced he had learned God's two names.

Curious to know his parents wanted him to tell them God's names.

He said, "God is called Art and Howard."

That wasn't what the parents expected to hear.

So they asked him why God's names are Art and Howard.

He explained that the teacher was telling them how to talk to God.

The teacher said we should pray, "Our Father who's Art in heaven,

Howard be thy name."

**The Scriptures are the source of truth about life and God.**

But too many people use the Scripture to justify their lostness.

They will say things like, "I'm no worse than the next guy."

They will convince themselves that a loving God won't punish sin.  
They will believe the delusion that everyone will be saved in the end.  
Or, that there is no such thing as heaven and hell.  
People who say such things are wrong.

They are wrong because they do not know the scriptures.

**Nothing bogs us down in life quicker than not knowing God's Word.**

We will be deluded and lost.

As Paul said in Romans 1:16, **"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile."**

Peter was in on more of Jesus' conversations than any of the other apostles.

He heard the words of life and truth from Jesus Himself.

He was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

And of that experience he writes, **"For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes. ... Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."** (2 Peter 1:16, 19-21)

Jesus instructed John to **"Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum. This is the message from the one with the sharp two-edged sword"** (Rev. 2:12).

**"He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance."** (Revelation 1:16)

Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus, **"Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."** (Ephesians 6:17)

The writer to the Hebrews recounted, **"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."** (Hebrews 4:12)

If we don't know the Scripture we will be bound in turmoil and confusion.

**To know the Scripture is to see, perceive, behold, consider, be sure.**

This is not a casual reading or superficial exposure.

If that is your approach you are going to be wrong about everything.

If you are treating the Scripture flippantly you are bogged down right now.

And you are as blind to being mired in life as the Sadducees.

**Knowing the Scriptures liberates you and sets you free.**

**In God's word you experience life and power.**

It's not hard to figure out what life is like without it.

Jesus pointed out another deficiency.

## **II KNOW THE POWER OF GOD (vs. 29)**

Let me remind you of this word power.

From the Greek word we get the English, dynamite, dynamo, dynamic.

**In God we see miraculous power, might, strength, volatility.**

God is the God who is able.

With God all things are possible.

The prophet Isaiah encouraged Israel with a message from God.

**"Listen to me, my people. Hear me, Israel, for my law will be proclaimed, and my justice will become a light to the nations. My mercy and justice are coming soon. My salvation is on the way. My strong arm will bring justice to the nations. All distant lands will look to me and wait in hope for my powerful arm. Look up to the skies above, and gaze down on the earth below. For the skies will disappear like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a piece of clothing. The people of the**

earth will die like flies, but my salvation lasts forever. My righteous rule will never end!" (Isaiah 51:4-6)

The Psalmist declared, "The Lord is king! He is robed in majesty. Indeed, the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken." (Psalm 93:1)

We could spend hours recounting the miraculous demonstrations of God's power.

The creation story explains how God spoke everything into existence.

The plagues that were unleashed upon Egypt.

The parting of the Red Sea.

Water springing from a rock.

Manna from heaven.

The entire city of Ninevah coming to repentance.

The collapse of Jericho's walls.

The sun standing still.

300 soldiers of Israel defeating an army like locusts for multitude and camels beyond numbering.

Dead sons brought to life.

A kitchen cupboard that refused to empty.

The interpretation of unspoken dreams.

Surviving the lions den and fiery furnace and combat with giants.

The virgin birth of Jesus.

And we haven't even touched the miracles of Jesus.

Someone will ask, 'You don't really believe all that stuff do you?'

My only answer is yes, because I believe in the power of God.

If you are bogged down in life you know nothing of God's power.

If you are living in despair you are treating God like a fairy tale.

But Jesus shares one more truth with the Sadducees.

### III KNOW THE LIVING GOD (vs. 32)

To know the living God is to be in a personal relationship with Him.

I know the living God when I acknowledge and confess my sin.

On our trip down memory lane I knew we were in trouble.

I could see it and feel it coming.

I didn't need anyone to tell me I was stuck.

The fact that I was giving the gas and going nowhere made that obvious.

You know if you are stuck spiritually today.

You don't need a preacher to tell you that.

You can reach out to the God who is the God of the living.

He has defeated sin and death through the power of the cross and the resurrection.

God reveals what has been destroying your life.

Push it all across the table and surrender it to God.

"Has any nation ever heard the voice of God speaking from fire—as you did—and survived? Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes. He showed you these things so you would know that the Lord is God and there is no other." (Deuteronomy 4:33-35)

Closing Song - Our God Is Greater