



## Titus #8

### Tit 3:5a

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As we walk through Lent toward the cross of Jesus...our music and liturgy reflect this orientation towards the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. We have talked about Jesus's Way vs. the Cretan Way (foolishness, envy, and hatred). We should celebrate when we walk in Jesus's way...because all of us once lived like Cretans but the kindness and love of our savior appeared. We carry these heavy chains of our past stories that need to be forged into new, lighter chains made up of God's stories in our lives.

### Titus 3:5a

"...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."

Titus 3:4 says "when the Kindness and love of our Lord appeared....HE SAVED US! Not because of the righteous things we had done but because of his mercy.

### ...he saved us...Incomplete Pictures

- Superman
- Salvation is about healing and wholeness
- Mark 5:24-34 – Woman healed of bleeding
- "Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has **healed** you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'"

We have incomplete pictures of salvation:

1. **Superman** (hanging from a building, losing your grip, and you fall and Superman catches you and you go off and live your life). This is incomplete because salvation is not a moment and then we go on our way: it is intimately connected with healing and wholeness. Jesus heals us and makes us whole.

2. Mark 5:24-24: Jesus is headed to heal a man's child (Jairus) at the height of his ministry and the crowds are

pressing in on him. A woman who has suffered from bleeding for 12 years (pain, loss of income, no solutions, loss of relationships) presses through this crowd to get close to Jesus with the goal of touching the hem of Jesus's robe. Immediately the bleeding stops and Jesus asks, "who touched me?" He is in a hurry yet he knows that there has been a moment of faith. He has a conversation with the woman and proclaims that her faith has **healed** her (**saved** her...it's the same word!). Salvation is not a momentary healing: it's about healing so this woman could live a life of **wholeness**."

### **...he saved us...**Incomplete Pictures

- Eternal Damnation
- Salvation begins in this life. It brings us into relationship with Jesus
- Mark 10:52 – “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

3. **Eternal damnation**: salvation is only about life after death, to save us from hell. But it's not only about this: We get to live eternally but it's also the kingdom here and now. Salvation begins in this life: we have a relationship with Jesus now. We get to walk alongside him and talk with him today!  
**Mark 10:52: Go, your faith has healed (saved) you and he received his sight and followed Jesus along the word.**

## **WHOLENESS**

- What are the areas of your life that need the wholeness of God?
- Where are you longing for healing?
- How could you tell your salvation story in context of God's healing?

Where do you long for healing? How could you tell your salvation story in the context of God's healing? What does it look like to tell your story in this way? Jesus is walking alongside me in a relationship.

### **...not because of righteous things we had done...**The Cart Before The Horse

- We think we can earn it. We can figure it out on our own.
- Colossians 2:20-23
- Romans 10:1-4

We think we can figure salvation out on our own. I will come to church after I figure things out. I want to spend time on my own before I can confess my sins. We want to make ourselves whole before we come to Jesus. “Look, Jesus! I fixed it!”

### **Col 2:20-23 20**

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: **21** “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? **22** These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. **23** Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

I can get things right on my own: self-imposed worship, the worship of the self and will, the idea that I can figure things out.

### **Rom 10:1-4**

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. **2** For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. **3** Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. **4** Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

We put the cart before the horse concerning righteousness and rules and we don't submit to God's righteousness. I can figure it out! Or fit Jesus's righteousness into my box. We forgive those we want to forgive: we refuse to submit our righteousness to God's culmination of the Law in Jesus.

## CONFESSING CONTROL

- How have you tried on your own to figure it out?
- How are you trying to fix things before going to Jesus?
- To whom could you confess your control?

We need to confess our **CONTROL**: places where I'm trying to figure out things on my own. What does this look like in my life? Maybe you're exhausted! How do you try to fix things before going to Jesus? Whom could you confess this to?

## *...but because of his mercy.*

- Mercy is messy
- We don't think we need mercy
- We don't want to give it to others
- Matthew 9:10-13

We are saved because of his **mercy**: I think we understand mercy but we don't like it. We know what it means to be merciful but we just don't want to do it. Instead, I want to punish someone. The reality is that mercy is messy: we have to get into the mess of life, the mud of relationships to be merciful. Since we don't think we need mercy, we don't want to be messy. We don't want to be seen in our mess and we don't want to enter into others' mess. Yet Jesus walks into the mess with us!

### **Matt 9: 10-13.**

**10** While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. **11** When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

How dare Jesus eat with these people (the mafia people of their time)? Jesus hears them talking and replies with

**12** On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'<sup>1a</sup> For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

This story shows how we can allow Jesus bring wholeness and healing into our life:

## Mark 10:46-52

### SURRENDER

Mark 10:46-52

**46** Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging.

Imagine a large crowd following Jesus and as they leave the city, they walk through the dust and dirt and the walls are fading. There are many people, including blind Bartimaeus. It's noisy and you want to hear everything Jesus is saying.

**47** When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Imagine Bartimaeus crying out: I want to scream this to demonstrate it to you! It's a desperate cry.

**48** Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

People rebuke him but he shouts all the more. The dust, crowd, noise and Bartimaeus's voice and Jesus stops:

**49** Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you.” **50** Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

The same people who told him to be quiet are now helping him to his feet

**51** “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

Jesus doesn't assume: he wants him to articulate what he wants out loud. When you think about the kindness and love of Jesus and his salvation, not the things you have done...in his mercy he says to you, “What do you want Jesus to do for you?” Where do you want Jesus to make you whole? Can you tell him? A better job, a better relationship with your spouse and kids, a place to live, a working car?

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

**52** "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

He saved us because of his mercy: Jesus enters into the mess and brokenness and asks us what we want. Bring the thing you are trying to fix into the light...to your pilgrim group, to the person discipling you? Where do you seek wholeness?