Sunday August 11, 2013

Subject: “No more Business as Usual: I am not a victim, I am victorious”

Our lesson brought to us by Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner, pastor of Goodwin Memorial A.M.E. Zion, comes from (John 5: 1-15) and (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Background - The Healing at the Pool:
The sermon opens up with the scene in “Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.” Laying there was an invalid for over thirty eight years. When Jesus saw the paraplegic sitting by the pool, he asked him “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Pastor places emphasis on Jesus’ question in the key verse 6 and poses several of the same questions as Jesus: She asked: “why did you stay there all that time and Do you want to get well”. Are we like the paraplegic who had a victim mentality?

What does it mean to have a victim mentality?
It means making excuses. Although folks come to church every Sunday and ask for prayer, yet if they do not believe that they can be healed, then they will not be healed. This is based on their own mindset claiming to be a victim. Do we know anyone who was very close to help, yet they made many excuses for not accessing the help they needed. Has there ever been a time that we thought we were never going to come out of our circumstances? Remember 911 which brought people out to look for healing and a Godly explanation of a world packed with distress, greed, and racism? Yet these and other factors continue to undermine God’s world.

Glory to his name proclaims the pastor who was anointed to tell us that: a) We cannot have the victim mentality b) That we should want to be healed.

How then can we come out of our circumstances?
Ponder and Consider:

1. Following in the example of Ezra, in order to be restored, we must repent.
2. God already knows our situation. If we want to get close to God, we must tell God in prayer that we want to be delivered
3. We must trust God.
4. We must get out of God’s way. Take the first step and then let God do the rest.
5. We will have storms, but we should claim victory even in the midst of the storm.
6. People will hurt us, but we must refuse to be a victim.

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What should our mindset for being victorious be?

Ponder and Consider:

1. Claim the victory over our illnesses in Jesus' name.
2. Believe that God is going to bring us out.
3. Believe that we will soar.
4. Believe that victory is around the corner.
5. Say to ourselves: “I am victorious”.
6. Be mindful of our approach to problems.
7. Be willing to grow and move on.

Summary: The sermon reminds us that we are children of God. (Matthew 28:18) Jesus said to us: “I have all power and authority” We serve a God who is a deliverer and who will bring us out. Jehovah Jireh is our provider. We are already victorious in Christ our Lord; it is a matter of claiming it. That job we want will come. Our children and spouses will begin to act right. As the song lyrics state: In the name of Jesus we have the victory, in the name of Jesus, satan will have to flee. (Proverbs 3:5-6) Trust the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. God is as intimately involved in our lives as He was with Ezra’s life, and like Ezra we are sometimes enabled to do the impossible. Ezra did the impossible, for the hand the Lord his God was on him (Ezra 7:8). Every believer is a living temple (1 Corinthians 6:19) in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Pastor Robyn reminds us that as believers we should proclaim that we are on Holy ground and 4 We are children of the most high and should take dominion over the earth and our circumstances as it is commanded in God’s word. The Lord is a rock in weary land and a shelter in the time of storms. Pastor Anderson-Turner further suggests reading (1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 20) NIV. Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

3 http://www.gotquestions.org/life-Ezra.html