

# **The lame shall take the prey**

**June 7, 2020**

**In Isaiah 33:23, I want to focus on the last part of this verse.  
Where it says, “the lame shall take the prey” (or the spoil).**

**Isaiah is likening the Assyrians to a broken down ship, loaded with valuable goods and treasures. But it is a ship that can no longer spread or raise its sails, or be anchored to shore. Now, even the weak and the lame can come and confiscate and spoil all its goods.**

**Let's read Isaiah 33:23:**

**“Thy (cords) are loosed; they could not well strengthen their (flagpole) they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey.”**

## **A different application**

**The lame shall take the prey. The weak shall take the spoil.**

**Remember this verse: Ecclesiastes 9:11**

**The race is not to the swift.**

**The battle is not to the strong.**

**It is God who controls time and chance.**

**Those who win the battle, — it is not by natural strength.**

**Those who win the race of life, — it is not with natural abilities.**

**Romans 14:4 - God is able to make a weak brother stand.**

**2 Corinthians 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”**

Many who are strong in themselves, don't make it.  
God uses weak and dependent people ... dependent on him.  
Sometimes God uses weak and unlikely people to accomplish things.  
Remember, victory is promised through Grace. Zachariah 4:6-9  
After Judah return from Babylon, they needed to rebuild the Temple.

### **Zerubbabel - The Rebuilder of the temple**

“This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Zerubbabel had laid the foundation of the restoration temple, but there was much opposition.

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.” Zechariah 4:7,

The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.” Zechariah 4:9,

When Zerubbabel put the last stone in place, he would be shouting “grace grace” unto it. He was all by God's grace. Divine enablement. We need God's divine enablement — every inch of the way.

### **Often God has to weaken us before He uses us**

Jonah - Jonah was a wonderful man. But, God had to change some wrong attitudes, and wrong thinking first, before God could use him. Jonah was told - go to Nineveh and warn them, You will be destroyed in 40 days. So Jonah went in the opposite direction.

**It appears that Jonah wanted Nineveh to be destroyed.**

**He felt - Enemies of Israel. — they deserve to be judged.**

**Consider some adjectives that Jonah thought about Nineveh!**

**They're wicked, they're no good, they're worthless, murderers,  
Scoundrels,**

**But these were people that God wanted to save.**

**In Jonah 4:1-2 Jonah was still angry when God spared Nineveh.**

**But In Jonah 4:11, God reasons with Jonah:**

**There are more than 120,000 people in this city.**

**Who don't know their right hand from their left. No discernment,**

**So God put Jonah through some very difficult, humiliating experiences  
To change his heart, make him a proper voice to the city of Nineveh,  
To save many thousands of souls.**

**Can you imagine running from God,**

**Not wanting to minister or save people you highly resented.**

**Then being swallowed by a whale, being in him for 3 1/2 days.**

**What a horrible experience, but it was necessary.**

**God took a very weakened, humiliated man, and made him very fruitful**

**Remember, all these things are written for our learning.**

**Once again our theme — the lame take the prey (or the spoil).**

**The weakened, humiliated, those with right-thinking, God can use.**

**There are many other examples in scripture of God  
needing to weaken us, before he can use us.**

**Remember, the lame take the prey, or the spoil.**

### **Jacob - needed to be weakened**

**In Genesis 32:25, we find Jacob wrestling with the Lord.**

**Jacob was a man of great natural strength. God would weaken him.**

**The Lord touched Jacob's thigh, it was out of joint. God weakened Jacob. In Genesis 32:28, God changed Jacob's name to Israel. At the same time God weakened Jacob, he also changed his nature. He went from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (prince with God). So often, that is how it is with us. God must first weaken us. Song 8:5 - "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? Before we become fruitful, spiritually, we need to be made lame. Lame take the spoil. Not strong, proud, independent.**

### **Moses - another weakened man**

**In Acts 7:20 and on, Stephen is making reference to Moses. In verse 21, Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house. In verse 22, Moses was mighty in words and deeds. In verse 29, Moses left Egypt for 40 years, in the wilderness.**

**In Exodus 3, the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush. God commissions Moses in 3:10, to bring Israel out of bondage. In 3:11, Moses replies, who am I, to bring Israel out of bondage? In Exodus 4:10,**

**"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." Exodus 4:10, KJV.**

**This account of Moses is amazing. As young man, Moses was mighty in words and deeds. After 40 years in the wilderness, Moses says: Oh lord, I'm not eloquent, I'm of a slow tongue... Send my brother instead. So often, God must weaken us before he uses us. It is the lame who take the spoil, who are very fruitful.**

## **The woman at the well**

In John chapter 4, we have the account of the woman at the well.  
She had been married five times, did not have a good past reputation.  
This is actually a very important subject. Marriage.  
All creation is based upon marriage.  
All Gods creatures have been made male and female.  
When this Earth passes away, the only thing that remains is a bride.  
Revelation 21:1, John sees this Earth and heaven passing away.  
In 21:9, the only thing that remains is a bride.  
A people who have responded to God's love.

This is what this short life is all about.  
To prepare us for our heavenly bridegroom, the Lord himself.  
Marriage in the natural, is to produce many eternal qualities in us.  
Wisdom, forbearance, forgiveness, patience, understanding,  
In many other eternal qualities.

Here was a woman, married five times, now just living with men.  
But now, she has met Christ, the Fountain of living water.  
Now she has found the real answer to her thirsty soul.  
And only Christ can satisfy her thirsty soul. Human love fails.

Even with her bad past, background, could she be fruitful spiritually?  
Next thing we hear about her, she's bringing the whole town to Jesus.  
Yes, the lame can become very fruitful. When truly repentant.

It's true that divorce remarriage, can limit certain ministerial positions.  
Yet, whatever our past, God wants all his people to be fruitful.  
Herein is my father glorified, that you bear much fruit.  
“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be  
my disciples.” John 15:8, KJV.

## **The apostle Paul**

**The apostle Paul had a terrible beginning.  
He was the greatest persecutor of the church.  
It's estimated, he persecuted 10,000 Christians before conversion.  
But when he met Christ, he was completely turned around.  
Now he became the greatest builder and defender of the church.  
He wrote half of the New Testament. 14 of 27 NT books.**

**God took a terrible failure, and made him a tremendous success.  
He called himself, the chiefest of sinners.  
Here was a man, greatly damaged by his past,  
But now totally transformed.**

**God used his past failures, to help him accept future persecution.  
In the past, he persecuted others, now is being persecuted.  
And he was able to accept this.**

**2 Corinthians 12:10, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."**

## **In closing**

**God wants to heal some of our lameness.  
Often our mouth, our speech, hinders our fruitfulness.  
Job was one of the godliest man who ever lived.  
Yet in his trial, he said some things there were not spiritual.  
When God convinced him of some wrong speech, he repented.  
And Ended up even more fruitful.**

**Lameness - speaks of certain limitations. Extra dependence on God.  
Humility, overcoming a bad past reputation. His blood can cover.**