

“My Wheelchair”

By Arman Jorge

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Thank you, Jesus. You know, that's one of the things that I love about this ministry. I mean, just the worship, it's just fully there. It just uplift your spirit, it makes you move more with whatever God would have you to do. And, you know, whoever and whatever you worship is where you draw your strength from. That's where you draw your ability to do things for God. You know, King David was worshipping God with all his might, and he was dancing for the Lord (2 Samuel 6:12-16), and, his wife Michal just mocked him, just didn't like what he did. And, God turned around, and cursed that woman, she never had a baby ever since (2 Samuel 6:20-23). And, you know, there's a lot of people out there that think what we do in here is foolishness. And, you know what God says about foolishness, right? God says, “I have chosen the foolishness of this world to confound the wise. I have chosen the weak things of this world to confound the mighty.” (1 Corinthians 1:27) And, you know, Church, you and I, as Believers, you know what God says to us? The wisdom and the power of God rests In You. I just wanted to throw that out there, it was just so rich, so rich. Before I get started this morning, before I start this morning, I just wanted to take this moment, and just really mark this moment, and show my appreciation to the word of God. I want to thank Andy and Parrish for this opportunity for allowing me to preach this message to these faithful men and women, boys and girls, the family of God. And, as you may know, this is really my first time to give a whole message. And, I know, if I'm speaking from the flesh, you'll never find me up here. I'll be the first one to run out of here. But, Church, this morning, it isn't about the flesh, it's about the Spirit of God. Because God says, “He that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) It's about the Spirit of God. I know that those people that labor in this pulpit right here, they seek God with their whole heart when they're up here. And, it's really a privilege, and honor to work side-by-side with these Mighty Men of God. This morning's message, the title is, “My Wheelchair.” “My Spiritual Wheelchair.”

Part 1: What Is It Made Of?

What is your wheelchair made of? And, the text comes from Hebrews, chapter seven, verse three, and it says,

Hebrews 7:3 *without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

And, in Mark, chapter fourteen, verse fifty-eight, it says,

Mark 14:58 *We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.*

I know this month's theme is about “Learn of Me.” Let me take for a second, let me take your mind for a second to the Sunday School, Church. Actually, last month, we made some changes to Sunday School. We actually had two classes, we used to have two classes in Sunday School, and, we used to have kindergarten to third grade, and fourth grade to eighth grade. Last month we kind of made the decision that we've got to drop that one down, because, the reason being, at one time we used to have

eight teachers and some helpers, and we dropped to four teachers and just some helpers. So we had to make a decision to just kind of drop it down to three years old to fifth grade and send the older kids to church. Anyway, that Sunday, December third, last month, I was ushering the kids coming into Sunday School. And, so, they were all anxious, you know, and, just wanted to get into the Sunday School, except for this one kid. Boy, I think he was just not into Sunday School that morning; he didn't want to go inside. But, you know, I worked my little magic, you know, I kind of talked him into it, and, I said, "Hey, you know, we're going to have fun, you know. I always like having fun in Sunday School." So, he got in there, and I was able to get him into class, and start working with him. But, I haven't taught three-year-olds in a long time. It's been a long time, so, and I'm supposed to teach the lineage of Jesus. How in the world are you going to teach the lineage of Jesus to three-year-olds? You know, it was actually easy, I just had to put my thinking glasses on, just put my magic book together, and, what we actually did was, we took out some of the Jesus' lineage, you know we took out some of the names, you know, like Adam and Eve, we acted on—we talked about their lives, and we acted on it. And, what's interesting, what caught the children's eyes, was Noah. And, so, what I did was, we put together some chairs and tables, and we made an ark inside the class. We just kind of, we brought all the animals in there, you know, and I had some pilot in there, you know, the captain driving my Ark. And, I played the shark. The thing is, I think I spooked Jason's younger son, Preston, and he got scared with the shark. So, the shark had to swim in there, and talk to Preston, and, I said, "Oh, this is a nice shark. I don't bite, you know?" And, so, the shark and Preston made friends, so, we just kept on going, you know? As they were leaving, actually, their parents start coming, and, some of the kids didn't want to leave the Sunday School class. They wanted to stay there and do some more. And, you know, church, as a teacher, that's part of the precious jewels that I receive, as a teacher. If you can teach a three-year-old the Word of God, interest them, the three-year-olds, in the Word of God, you've done your job as a teacher. You've done your job as a teacher. But, Church, I'm not here to tell you that, what I'm here to tell you, this morning, is that Jesus came from an earthly line of royalty. Royalty, leadership, and divine power. And, you know, in that family tree, there's so many skeletons in that family tree. But, what interested me the most, was, you know, used to be, families would try to hide the embarrassing details of their, you know, of their history. But, you know what? Jesus displayed them all openly, so that you and I can see them. And, you know, that was really interesting, because, you know, Adam and Eve failed the test, when they ate that fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. Noah got drunk and slept naked in his tent, you know? And, who else? Abraham and Sarah laughed at God, when God told them that they're going to have a baby in their old age. Isaac lied to Abimelech and said his wife Rebecca was his sister instead of his wife. How about Jacob? Jacob was—everybody accuses Jacob as a liar because he stole his brother's Birthright. This one is kind of good: Judah, Judah was part, he was part of the Joseph's murder, he was part of that, you know? They wanted to murder his brother Joseph, but he was also one of the persons that convinced all of his brothers to sell him, instead of murdering him. And, Judah, Judah had a daughter-in-law, Tamar, and, you know, he slept with his daughter-in-law, because his daughter-in-law played a prostitute. She played this prostitute, and, Church, Jesus came from this tree of lineage, this family, you know? And, how about King David and Bathsheba? King David had an affair with Bathsheba, and then had her husband killed. And, imagine, Jesus came from all of this, this is an embarrassing thing of Jesus' history. But, you know, out of all these failures, out of all these failures, a perfect man came out of this tree, this family tree. And, what I'm asking today is, is your wheelchair made by Jesus this morning, or is He a wheelchair in your life?

Part 2: What Makes Your Wheelchair Tip Over?

The text comes from Luke, chapter twelve, verse five, and it says like this:

Luke 12:5 *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

And, in Matthew, chapter ten, verse twenty-eight, it says:

Matthew 10:28 *And, fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

As a young kid, one of the things I feared that the most was I was, you know, I was afraid of the dark. I used to have my grandpa carry me to the bedroom, because I can't go over there by myself, so I had to sleep where everybody's at, and just carry me up there. And, I'm also afraid of quicksand, because, you know, in the Philippines, there's mountains and volcanoes, and forest, and, right now, I don't know if you heard, volcanoes, they're very active over there, right now. And those are scary things. But one of the things one of the things that was most scary for me, was, when I became older, in 2008, I lost my mom to cancer. She had a lymphoma; cancer in her stomach. And, I wasn't ready to let my mom go. It was just really hard for me, and she's never been baptized. And, so, in 2008, she came from the Philippines in 2008, in April, yeah, it was in April when she came back, and she was really sick. And, one of the things, you know, people, some people, they just don't like to go see the doctor. They just don't want to, you know, go to see the doctor to find out what's wrong with them. And, that's my mom, my mom just don't want to go see the doctor. But, at this time, I really talk to her, and I said, "Mom, you've got to go see the doctor. You know, this is really not good." And, you know what, the only reason that she agreed with me was because she's really having pain. She's got a lot of pain and her stomach. And, so, we went there, and go see the doctor, and, I went to take her to see the specialist, and they tried to find out what's wrong with her. And, this one time, it was the middle of the day, and she was really in pain. She was really hurting. And, I came to her bed, and I just prayed with her, you know? And, I said to my mom, I said, "Mom, we need to go to my church and just have one of the pastors pray with you, and, you need to get baptized, because, I mean, I don't know what's going to happen." You know? And, I was able to persuade my mom, and she came with me, she came with me to church that afternoon. And, I remember talking to Pastor Wilson, because I got a hold of Pastor Wilson. I said, "Pastor Wilson, we need to have my mom prayed over, and I just really need the touch from God today." And, so, Pastor Wilson took us to the front, to the Altar, and we prayed, and after we got done praying, and I said to Pastor Wilson, "Pastor Wilson, you know my mom wants to get baptized, right?" And, Pastor Wilson asked my mom, "Is that true, Lucia?" That's my mom's name. "Is that true, Lucia? Do you want to get baptized?" And, Pastor Wilson can see through my mom. He knew that she's not there to do that. The only reason she was with me is because she was in pain. And, so, Pastor Wilson told her, "I tell you what, when you decide that you want to make a commitment to God, come back here, and I'll baptize you anytime." So, we walked away from church, I was angry and disappointed, and I took my mom home. So, we got to the last day of my mom's life. The doctor came to us, and he said, "You know, you guys have to make a decision, on what you want to do to with your mom, because the only reason she's living right now, is because of this machine." And, so, my dad—my stepdad, "Yeah, go ahead and take this unit off, and do what you got to do." And, I talked to my dad, because I don't want—I can't, I'm not ready, you know, I talked to my dad. And, the thing is, Pastor Wilson happened to be in the hospital that day, and so I came to talk to him. I said, "Pastor Wilson, I'm not ready to let my mom go, and he's already decided he wants to take this thing off, you know?" I told pastor Wilson, "What if God changes his mind, and heels my mom, and we're already just letting her go, just like that?" And, you know what? I'll never forget this, this is what Pastor Wilson told me, he said, "Whatever you decide today, whatever your dad, whatever your family decides today, God is going to do whatever he wants to do with whatever he

chooses to do. Remember, God raised Lazarus after he'd been dead for three days. And, whatever you do, whatever you do, don't limit God, don't limit God." And, so, Church, I'm going to be honest with you, I almost lost my faith along that time. I almost walked away. And, I'm thankful for Pastor Wilson, because he was able to just, really, walk me through it, and, just really face my fear. And, I'm really glad, I'm really glad, because I was able to walk again with my faith, and just keep praising God, you know? A few years later, and I'm still here, right here in front of you. And, I'm thankful, I'm thankful for that. And, church, all I want to say is this morning, is that we have to face our fears. And, what better way to fear God, then to fear other people out there, or whatever, because He's the only one that can make us through the hurdles of life, make us walk through the bridge of life, He's the only one that can do all of that.

Part 3: What Makes Your Wheelchair Move?

First of the year, it was really—as you know, it was really hot those times, I'm sorry, it was cold that time. It was below zero, it was just really, you know? And, one of the things that God has showed me, three things, the first of the year: he showed me reconciliation, peace, and honesty. And, I think, a couple of weeks ago, when I was sharing a testimony, I think I touched on reconciliation and peace. But, today, I want to talk about honesty. I'm a little embarrassed to admit this this morning, but when it was cold that morning, it was January first, I had to go to the store and just buy some groceries, you know? And, it was at night, and I've got to go get it right away, it was cold, so I'm trying to get it fast. And, so, I did that, and, so, I went to Sam's Club. I went there, and, you know, started shopping, you know, and I brought some groceries, and stuff. And, along with that, I bought a software for my computer. It cost like \$40. You know? And, so, you know, at the Sam's Club in Kenosha, they have those, you know, self-scan, and you can get all your stuff, self-serve, and I did that. And, so, I finished that, and I walked through the gate with the lady there, you know, check whatever you bought. "Okay, it's good." And, so, I went outside, I went to the car and start unloading my groceries, putting them in my van. And, as I was unloading it, I noticed this one thing that I bought, and I was thinking, "I don't think I paid for this one. And, I have it." And, one thing that was coming to my mind right away, was, "No, you don't need to go back there. You can check later. You know, it's on your... Go home, it's cold outside, you don't want to go back, and, there's, you know, when you get home, you're going to find that on your receipt." So, I was like, it was cold, and I did. And, I went home, and I just, I just, you know, forgot about it. So, I got home, started putting my stuff away at home., you know inside, and, after an hour, I took a shower. You know, I was, you know, getting ready for bed. And, I was getting out, and I was—I remembered, man, did I bring my software, that I bought, that I paid forty dollars for? And, so, I went down, and I told my wife, "Did you see the software that I bought? I don't see it. I don't remember taking it out." I asked my son, "Did you see it?" "No, I didn't see it." And, I said, "God, this is you. I know. I know. And, I told my wife, I said, I have to go back to Sam's Club, because I think I left my software on the cart. And, I have to go back over there." And, I did, I went back over there, you know? And, I go back in there, and I start searching the carts. I was looking it up, and I didn't see it, but then I saw this man, that works at Sam's Club, he's in charge of taking all these carts inside, so I asked him, I said, "Hey, have you seen any software that's sitting around in one of the carts?" "Oh, yeah, I did. I, actually, brought it into the front. And, when you go to the front, there's a lady there, I gave it to her." And, so, I did, I went inside, and I said, "Hey, that gentleman that works here, he told me that he gave you the software that he found. Actually, it belongs to me. See my receipt? It's right there." And, the lady said, "Oh, yeah, yeah, I got that. Just give me a second, I'll come back and get it for you." And, while that time, I was contemplating, and God was speaking to me, "You know why I brought you back here, right? I want you paying for that thing that you said that you did and you did not." I said, "Oh, God." And, so, the lady came back, and she

was, like, "Okay, here you go." And, I was like, "Oh, excuse me, you know, I was here earlier, and, you know, I paid for this, you know, and, I bought some things over there, and, I think I didn't pay for it. And, it was like seven or eight dollars, I think. If you want, I can get that same exact one, so you can scan it and I'll just pay for it right now." And, she said, "Really? Oh, you know what? Don't worry about it. Just go home, and forget about it." And, I said, "Are you sure? Because, I want to pay for it, really. I mean, I have the money right now." "Don't worry about it." I said, "Thank you, I appreciate that," and, so, I went home. And, I told my wife, and I was telling my wife, and I was like, "Do you know what God did to me today? God made me look so stupid. And, you know, I didn't pay for this. Then he made me go back, because I forgot this forty dollars, you know, and, now, I told the lady, you know, I may as well pay for it, because I'm here, you know?" And, you know, the funny thing is, the whole time I was telling my wife, my kids were on the other side, listening to my conversation. Okay? And, so, three days later, here's what happened: it was a Sunday night, I was at the Bible study teachers meeting, and, so, when we got done, I went home, and here comes Angelo. He just came to me right away. He says, "Dad, I've got to tell you something." I said, "What's wrong?" "Oh, me and mom went to Target, and my mom bought some things, and I bought this forty dollar thing for my phone, and, when I get home, I started looking at this receipt, and they didn't charge me for it. And, I don't want you to think that I stole it, I don't want anybody to think I stole it." "Well, you know what we do; we do the right thing." And, then I started telling that story, "You know, the other day, this is what happened." He said, "You don't have to tell me, I heard everything that was said, that's why I'm coming to you. I want you to tell me what you want me to do." I said, "We've got to do the right thing. We've got to go return this," but, at the time, it was already closed, the Target. We got to do the right thing." Church, I've got to be honest with you, forty dollars, forty dollars, okay? I'm contemplating this. "Make sure it's not on that receipt, because, we've got to go back over there, and just—you know?" And, I told my wife, because it's Monday, I have to go to work in the morning, so I asked my wife, "Do you think you could take this over there, and just get it right?" You know? And, my wife took it, the next morning, after she dropped Ashley off at school, so, she went there, she went to Target, and she approached the lady at the desk, and, she says, "We were here last night, and my son bought this thing, she actually brought the box it came in, and, it's not on our receipt, and, I'm here, to tell you, I want to pay for it, because, you know, it wasn't on our receipt, but I have it." And, the lady said, "Really? Wow! I want to thank you for your honesty, because, some people would just go over there and forget about the whole thing. Especially forty-five dollars. You know?" And, she said, "Yeah, I know, here's the forty-five dollars, and just give me a receipt. Okay?" And, you know what? What the lady did, she said, "Because you're so honest, I'm going to charge you only thirty-six dollars instead of forty-five. And, just get it over with. And, I want to thank you for your honesty." And, so, my wife called me at work and told me, "I just brought the thing, and they told me this and that. And, I only paid thirty-six bucks." "Oh, really?" And, I said, "Doesn't it feel good when you do something good in the right of God?" And, Church, what I'm telling you this morning, is God needs to see us through. We need to be transparent to God. God should be able to see through, in us, no problem. Because that's what's going to carry us through the next step of what God has for us.

Part 4: Is Your Wheelchair Dependable?

This morning, I actually asked Brother Jesse to share a couple of things for us, this morning, and while he's coming, think about things that, some of the hard things that you have to go through in life, and what are some of the things that you did to come and fix it. Just, how did you work through your problem?

I appreciate this, Brother Jesse, helping me with my message. Brother Jesse, just share with us this morning, what were your expectations when you first found out that you're going to start using a

wheelchair from this day forward? How hard were the changes that you have to make in your life and your daily routine?

Jesse Gulley: Good morning, originally, I was working with Brother Ken Avellino. I had to get my toenail taken off. They removed the toenail at the foot doctor, and it didn't bleed. So, the doctor said, "Well, you're going to have to go see someone else." So, he more or less just dismissed it. So, I ended up having to see a vascular doctor. And, he said, "Well, Jesse, we're going to, probably, have to remove your foot, just your foot." Well, I thought that was the end of the world, then. So, when they removed my foot, I was in Evanston Hospital, I stayed there for, maybe, about three weeks, or so. And, I came home, and, my leg, they had cut down the inside of my leg, where they installed a vein so the blood could flow down there, but, that didn't work. So, they ended up sending me up to the emergency room at the Grove. I stayed there, maybe, about two months before they finally amputated. That's when I knew Brother Parrish and Brother Andy came up there to the hospital, but I was always ending up on the floor while I was asleep. I don't really have any idea how I got down there. And, they ended up having to take one of my legs. Back then, you know, in my mind, I didn't know where to turn. I'm going to give it to you straight. I didn't know where to turn. I had never dealt with anything like that. So, that went on for a little while, then my brother happened to come to my apartment, because I wasn't answering my phone. He found me on the other side of the room, in my bedroom, on the floor, with just one leg. They ended up taking me back to the hospital again. They said, "Well, Jesse, we've got to amputate your other leg. Your body is full of poison." So, you know, don't get me wrong, Jesus brought me through a lot, brought me through a lot. But, right then, I needed God. I needed God. This was a God situation. Okay, by that time, I said, "You done took one leg, okay, it doesn't matter, take the other one." They ended up taking that. So, you know, it got better. I started getting better. That's when God really stepped up, because, everything in my life changed. Everything. I wish Brother Mike Hooks was still here to see this. I didn't have to work hard, and I'm continuously working hard. You know, there's a lot of things I can't do, like run, and jump, and something like that, but, as far as cleaning my apartment, or making my bed, or cooking my food, washing my clothes, whatever, I can do all that, you know? And, as long as I've got God on my side, I can't go wrong. I cannot go wrong with Jesus on my side.

I appreciate it. Thank you. Church, believe it or not, you and I, are no different than Brother Jesse. You and I are no different than Brother Jesse. Every single one of us carry a burden. Yeah, people out there, too, because God said, it's going to rain on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45). But, you know, don't forget that God has given us a spiritual wheelchair, His yoke. So that he can help us through our situation, our problems. Sure, some of us have legs to walk, but, the thing is, are we using it to walk with Christ? You know, I just can't help to notice that how hard it is for my brother Jesse, you know, that he had to go through that. You know, the thing is, this is where we are, God has given me a wheelchair, okay? And, I'm praying to God, "God help me with my patience. Help me with my financial situation, God. God, help me with my school, job, I failed school." And, this is what we do, Church, we push this wheelchair, and we start crawling, using our own strength. "God, I know what I'm going to do, I'm going to get two jobs. You don't mind me not coming to church, anyway. I'm going to get to job so that I can pay my bills, or something. God, to make people look bad at my work, so that I can look good, so that I can get that promotion. I'm going to go cheat on my class, so that I can pass this test." Church, we are no different, we are no different than Brother Abraham. You know, Abraham said—God told Abraham, I'm going to make you the father of many nations. And, do you know what Abraham did? He turned around and slept with his maid, instead of sleeping with his wife, Sarah, because, he said, "Sarah is too old, and she can't have a baby." Do you know what it really means to say, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light?" It means, when you can't get up in the morning, and you can't turn your alarm clock off, because you're wheelchair is too far away from you, God says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is

light." When you can't have a job, you're troubling to have a job, God said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." When you're health is failing, God says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." When you are struggling with your school, you can't pass, God said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Church, say you're in the toughest situation in your life, right now, how would you really know that God's yoke is easy and His burden is light? Church, God is moved, when you come to Him in total dependence. I'm going to say that again: God is moved when you come to Him in total dependence. Church, Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw all the multitude start following Him everywhere He goes. They start following, and Jesus turned around, and started bringing miracles to their life, started making the lame walk, started opening the eyes to see, you know, Church? Thank You, Jesus. I've just got to catch my breath for a second. Church, God is always going to be there for us. God will be there, no matter what happens in our lives. If we choose to walk away, He's still going to be there. God just needs us to make a total dependence on Him, to seek Him through with us. And, we will never know, we will never know, what it means, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light," if we continue to use our own strength and, solve our own problem, and not share it with Christ. Church, this morning, Jesus is pleading with us this morning, and He says, "Come unto me, yes, come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest into your souls, you shall find rest into your souls." He says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Let us pray. Jesus, I know our willingness to worship you, to serve you will come and go. Jesus, I know that we choose to do whatever we want to do in this life. Jesus, we choose to walk with You, or not, or we choose to use the wheelchair that You've given us, but God I know Your love will never fail, that Your love will continue to change our hearts, that Your love for us will continue to expound in us, Lord, God, because You're that kind of God, and Your compassion to us will result in healing, will result in forgiveness. Jesus, help us to walk that straight and narrow path, and lead life everlasting. Jesus, take my hands. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.