

January 26th - February 1st

Jesus the Branch: Overcoming sinking thinking - Dr. Billy Wilson

In this lesson you will learn three areas in which the Branch can lift you up.

Intro: Zec 3:8- Jesus is called the Branch several times throughout scripture. This divine title for Jesus connects divinity to humanity. While Jesus was fully God, he was also fully human and his maternal side of the family had its heritage from king David. His connection to humanity is his connection to us. There are three important characters in scripture that illustrate the power of the Branch when all seems lost. God has the power to reclaim and restore every lost cause.

I. Sinking in Debt

- A. 2 Kings 6:5-7- Elisha was working with the prophets. One of them lost an axehead in the water. Elisha threw in a stick and caused the axehead to float up and returned it to the borrower. You may feel like you're drowning in debt from credit cards, student loans, and a mortgage. All you need to do is invite the branch into your financial situation. If you feel sunk in your finances, God can raise you back up again. Start tithing to God and sowing seeds of increase.

II. Sinking in Failure

- A. Jonah 2:6- Jonah ran in the opposite direction of where God told him to go. He was thrown overboard from the ship and sunk down deep into the sea. In the midst of his sinking, God brought a great fish that swallowed him saving him from a watery grave. Even in direct disobedience to God, The Lord showed mercy on him and brought him up to fulfill his destiny. Your failures and mistakes will not keep you from fulfilling God's call on your life.

III. Sinking in Fear

- A. Matt 14:30- Many times fear strikes our hearts when we focus on our surrounding circumstances instead of fixing our eyes on God. When hopelessness begins to set in and disappointments stack up, grab hold to the Branch. Instead of being tormented with fear, come into His presence with singing and His courts with praise. In his presence there is fullness of joy. Stop listening to fear, and listen to the voice of hope, faith, and encouragement.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there debt weighing you down that you can surrender to God?
2. What painful failures are keeping you from reaching higher in life?
3. What fears in your life are limiting your growth?