

## **STEPS OUT OF STUCK**

### **STUCK**

- ❖ It's a bad feeling
  - Stuck in traffic
  - Stuck in a career
  - Stuck in your relationship with the Lord
  
- ❖ Does not have to be this way *(Psalm 18:28-29 NKJV) 28 For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. 29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.*
  - When we have His light - we can see what to do
  - When He gives us strength - we can run through or over barriers

### **TEN WHO CAME UNSTUCK**

*(Luke 17:11-19 NKJV) 11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

- ❖ Having leprosy is a stuck situation
  - A contagious disease that destroys the body
  - Causes physical and social quarantine
    - Cannot work or be around friends and loved ones
- ❖ The ten asked Jesus for mercy
  - Not justice or what they had deserved
    - Nor were they asking Jesus to feel sympathy for them
    - Mercy is an active compassion to remove miseries - compassion to heal
- ❖ Jesus gave them something to do
  - Not too hard for them - but did not make logical sense
    - Only those healed of leprosy were to go to the priests
    - When they acted on what He said - they were healed and stuck no more
    - They made steps
- ❖ Only one returned to give thanks
  - The other nine should have

### **STEPS OUT OF STUCK**

- ❖ Ask God for mercy *(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
  - Jesus has not changed and still full of compassion
  - His mercy and grace can get us unstuck
    - From sickness, mental and emotional issues, not knowing what to do
- ❖ Do whatever He tells you
  - He still instructs in His word and by His Holy Spirit
  - It will not be too hard, but it may not make logical sense
- ❖ Give God thanks *(1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV) 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
  - Thanks when He gets you out of stuck
  - Thanks before you're out



## Thank You for Tomorrow

He was just a little fellow. His mother died when he was just a child. His father, in trying to be both mommy and daddy, had planned a picnic. The little boy had never been on a picnic, so they made their plans, fixed the lunch, and packed the car. Then it was time to go to bed, for the picnic was the next day. He just couldn't sleep. He tossed and he turned, but the excitement got to him. Finally, he got out of bed, ran into the room where his father had already fallen asleep, and shook him. His father woke up and saw his son. He said to him, "What are you doing up? What's the matter?"

The boy said, "I can't sleep."

The father asked, "Why can't you sleep?"

In answering, the boy said, "Daddy, I'm excited about tomorrow."

His father replied, "Well, Son, I'm sure you are, and it's going to be a great day, but it won't be great if we don't get some sleep. So why don't you just run down the hall, get back in bed, and get a good night's rest."

So the boy trudged off down the hall to his room and got in bed. Before long, sleep came--to the father, that is. It wasn't long thereafter that back was the little boy. He was pushing and shoving his father, and his father opened his eyes. Harsh words almost blurted out until he saw the expression on the boy's face. The father asked, "What's the matter now?"

The boy said, "Daddy, I just want to thank you for tomorrow."

When I think of my past and the fact that a loving Father would not let me go, reached down in his divine providence, and lifted me off of the streets of Harlem, when I think of what he has done for me and then think that he is planning a new thing for me that will surpass the past, let the record show this night in this place that Benjamin Reaves testified, Father, I want to thank you for tomorrow!