

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG249 – The Ministry of Bethesda

The following podcast is unique, because it was recorded in a recent service in Brazil and is being translated live simultaneously into Portuguese. This may be unique to some, or different, but I felt like the content was important and that people really would enjoy hearing what the Lord was speaking on a recent trip to Brazil. I hope it is a blessing.

It is a pleasure to have you all with us. It is certainly my honor to be here, and I know it is Silvana's honor to be here with everyone. We also have Bruce Larson with us from the US. We are part of Hargrave Ministries; we have podcasts and blogs, and reach out to people through Zoom calls. But it is very much an honor to be here with Silas. As Silas said, we have many years together, and we have very much a father-son relationship, in the Spirit and in the natural. And so, it is great once again to be at your side, and to see what God is doing in and through Silas. We are here especially to bless this time. Silas was not really ready to begin the services for Bethesda Ministries, but because of the timing of our trip, we decided to have this special service.

Bless you, João (Batista), it is good to see you. We are thankful to be here and to have all those who are with us on the Zoom call. We have about twenty-five different connections from all over the world. We are here to really release this ministry. It is something very much in Silas's heart to have a ministry that is a healing. He has been having meetings through Zoom for several years now that have been reaching out to many people, and again, with this focus of seeing people healed. Now, healings are not necessarily just physical. Many people need emotional healings. There is a great need in this age today for mental healing. And so, this burden that the Lord has put on Silas's heart is to touch many people.

One of the things that we have worked on together for years is healing for the Church itself, by bringing an end to division and separation, by bringing oneness between Protestants and Catholics, reaching out and creating relationships with the Jewish community here in Brazil, as well as through Israel. So, I want to just open our eyes and our hearts to this idea that healing is much bigger than many times the way we think about it. And so, we are here to bless Silas and his family, Shuma, Leo, and Vitória, in what is a release and a launch of this anointing. I am believing for it to be very successful in seeing healing to this community, to not only Niterói, but Rio also, and as we said, to many churches beyond the state of Rio that Silas is already involved with; and I just am glad that we can be here.

By the end of this time together, we are going to have a laying on of hands and an ordination of Silas's ministry on another level to participate with us in Hargrave Ministries, in which he already does participate in many ways. He is going to be traveling with us in a few weeks to Israel to be ministering there in Israel. He is going to be ministering in Mexico along with Bruce in just a few, gosh, a week; and he is leaving me here. But anyway, there is much happening that we are participating in together. And so, we want this blessing and the authority of this ordination to be something that is a covering, but also an anointing that Silas will carry moving forward into these days. Amen.

Silas: Amen. Amen.

Gary: I want to talk to us about this idea of Bethesda. This is something God spoke to Silas that this ministry was to be about, and I think we need to honestly look and see what is behind this concept. When we think about the idea of Bethesda, we immediately think about John the fifth chapter, because that is where we see the name Bethesda emerge in the Scriptures. This was a place where there was water being held for the city, but people would come there looking for a healing. Because the revelation was, or the story was, that angels would come and stir the waters; and if you could be the first one into the water, then you would receive a healing. So, that is the background. And for this reason, I think we tend to relate Bethesda with healing, but what are we really talking about? What is the healing? And what really transpired with Christ's encounter at Bethesda?

So, we are going to look at the Scriptures in John the fifth chapter. I will start reading from verses 2-8 so that we get some of the background.

Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted. A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years [now imagine that: this guy has been laying there for thirty-eight years]. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" [Now listen to what Yeshua says: "Do you wish to get well?" And the man responds]. The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

The Lord asked him a very important question. He said, "Do you wish to get well?" But listen how the man answers: "But I have no one to put me in the water." He did not say, "I want to be well. I have been here thirty-eight years because I want to be well." Instead, he gave the Lord all the reasons why he was not healed. So the first lesson for tonight is that when the Lord asks you a question, answer the question. Don't give Him all of your reasons why you are in trouble, just answer His question. It could have been very simple:

"Do you wish to get well?"

"Yes, I want to be well. I have been waiting to be well."

Now, let's see how the Lord responds:

"Jesus said to him, 'Get up, pick up your pallet and walk.'" He does not even respond to what the guy said. Do you sometimes find yourself doing a lot of praying, and the Lord is not responding to what you are saying? Maybe it is because you are not answering His question. It was a simple question:

"Do you want to get well?"

"Yes, I want to be well."

So, the Lord does not listen to all of his reasons why he has not been healed. The Lord just gives him a command: "Get up, pick up your pallet, and walk." He made him respond to where He was coming from. He had already decided to heal this guy. He was standing there as his healing. But somehow, He had to bring this man in to where He was, manifesting God's healing and mercy.

I think that is an important concept about this story of Bethesda, about what I believe the Lord is leading Silas to do here. He is not here to listen to your troubles, and your excuses, and your reasons of why things have not worked. He is here to bring you into the place where the answer already exists for the healing and the ministry that you need. And I believe we are going to see that over and over again. He is going to have a lot of people not answering the call that he is giving, but instead, giving him the excuses of why it cannot work.

“But You don’t understand. I have nobody to put me in the water! How can I be healed?”

One thing about the man’s response, “I have no one”; in other words, he was looking for someone else to do it for him. “It is somebody else’s fault that I am still laying here. If somebody would have just put me in the water, I would be healed. It is not my fault, I have done everything. I laid here for thirty-eight years! It is all these people who would not put me in the water.” We are wonderful as humans; we have so many reasons why it is somebody else’s problem except ours. So, in the Lord’s command, He put it back on him, didn’t He? He said, “You get up, you pick up **your** pallet; it is your pallet, it is not someone else’s; and you walk.”

It is interesting when the Lord asks him, “Do you wish...?” When you look at that statement in the Greek, what the Lord was actually asking him was, “Are you driven to be well?” You could put it this way: “Are you sick of being sick? Are you done being this way? Do you will to be whole?” It was an important question, because the Lord knew that part of the problem with this guy was that he was putting the responsibility on everybody else; and the Lord made him take responsibility for what had to be done. And he did. There has to be a drive in us to fulfill the will of God in our life. Somebody else will not do it. It is never somebody else’s responsibility, it is always our responsibility to get up and walk. What God wants us to do, we have to walk it out. Nobody walks our eternity for us, we do it ourselves. So, the Lord was making him take that responsibility.

One thing I bless about this ministry is that there is going to be a way that you find, in the anointing of the Lord, to have people really take responsibility for the will of God in their own lives; for the will of God in their own community; for the will of God in their own churches. We are not going to have unity and oneness in the body of Christ between Protestants and Catholics, or with any other groups of Christians, unless we, me, I, take the responsibility to get rid of the division. I cannot wait for somebody else to do it.

“Why aren’t the churches one yet?”

“Well, because I cannot find somebody to carry me into the water. I have been waiting. I want oneness. I want us to have these things. And as soon as somebody else does it, I will be a part.”

It will never happen. Oneness begins here. Love begins here. We do not wait for somebody else to bring it; we bring it into the atmosphere. So, again, these things are going to be learned, not as principles. I do not want a lot of preaching, I want a lot of learning to do it. Christ was pretty simple here: “Pick up your bed and walk.” We can do it, if we do it.

There is another story in Matthew the eighth chapter, and I like this because it kind of gives another feel of the same concepts from another direction. We are in Matthew the eighth chapter, and we will start with verses 1-3. “When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him. And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ And immediately his

leprosy was cleansed.” This guy came because he knew the healing was there. He knew Christ was his healing. He laid hold of Him. Christ did not have to ask him, “Do you want to be well?” He came and said, “I am driven to be well. I want to be well. I am seeking to be well. I am driven to be well. And You are going to do this. I know You have it, and I am coming to where You are, where it is.” And Christ said, “I am willing.”

God is willing to deal with our needs. He is the answer to every need. He has our healing, healing on every level. But you notice that in the beginning of this story, Jesus came down from the mountain. Jesus came from the place in the Presence of God. He was up in the mountain praying. He was in the Presence of God. In the Presence of God, all things are possible. Nothing is impossible. And this leper had enough perception to see that reality of “nothing is impossible” resting on Christ; and he came to Him and said, “I am getting this. You have it, I am getting it. Nothing is impossible. This leprosy means nothing.” And Christ gave the answer, “I am willing.”

Christ is always there for us. He already said, “I am willing.” He already went to the cross. He already worked that out with the Father: “If it is possible, let this cup pass, but I will to do this”; and He is still willing. You know, people think the cross happened thousands of years ago. But when you understand that with God there is no time, then that cross is right here tonight. It exists right here. Every day that we get up, that cross is there for us; and we just need to be like this leper. We need to get out of bed and say, “If You will – and I see You on that cross, so I already know Your will, because You have already done it. And I am coming to You and receiving all that I need.” It is so important. For me, it is the way that I begin my prayer and meditation every day. The first thing I do is reach in to the realm of Spirit and appear before Him on that cross, and appropriate all that is available. And do you know what is available on that cross? Everything. That is the point at which nothing is impossible. Any one of our needs, any one of the possibilities that exist for us, is right there. And that is going to be a big factor in the reality of the Ministry of Bethesda. Amen?

Alright, did we cover it? It is not just a miracle healing, there is a lot going on here. And there is going to be a lot going on here in this place. Do you want to add to or make a comment? Because then we are going to get into the impartation.

Silas: I want to be thankful to God for the clarity of this revelation. We need to allow this rock, this revelation of the Bethesda Ministry, to be the drive of our hearts. Each one takes hold of their own responsibility. It is not your pastor’s responsibility, or your priest’s, or your wife, your husband, your friends, your brothers in Christ. No, it is your responsibility. You take your bed and walk. You have to practice the Word that He teaches. It is wonderful the word that we have. The biblical teachings that the Lord has given us in the last decades are so rich, and it is time for us to reach that level of walking in the Spirit. We know that in this level, nothing is impossible. There are many healings, like Gary said in the beginning: physical, mental, emotional, which can happen, actually today. And all of us need some degree of healing. Some of us need all degrees of healing. It is available, but do not expect anyone to do it for you; you have to walk with God. The Holy Spirit is the guide. Jesus is the way. The Presence of the Father is the destiny. Thank you.

Gary: Amen. Can we have an ordination? Okay. Bruce, let’s get the ministries up. Ordained ministries, come forward and be a part of this. João, others who are ordained ministries, come forward.

This is going to be a place of family, for the family spirit. And so, first we start by blessing the family. Shuma, we bless you; Leo; and Silas, we bless you. We bless the oneness of this family. We bless the

heart that you are creating, in the name of the Lord, Amen. We lay hands upon you, Silas, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we release upon you the anointing, the commission, the gifts that will rest in this ministry; and we ordain you to this ministry, in the name of the Lord. Amen. Amen.

Bruce: I love the fact that João is here, and the other ones that are here. This is not just a Bible study, these are deep, close relationships that the Lord has created. And I feel like when we are ministering to Silas, because of that oneness, we are really ministering to the whole community. One thing I wanted to add is that later in that story, later in John 5, Christ said, "I only do those things which I see the Father doing." That was the reality of His awareness, the reality of what He saw, what the Father had done and was doing in the unseen realm. And because that was His reality, He manifested it.

Many Christians, as Gary said... look, our focus is circumstances. Our focus is the limitations, the outward issues. And tonight, I want to minister that ability to see what the Father is doing, to be aware of the unseen realm. The focus of this community will not be circumstances. It will not be limitations. Our seeking the Father is our responsibility. And I love what you said: we are each individually responsible to seek God – "Father, what are You doing in my life, in this community, in Brazil, in the world?" See, when we speak the Word of God, that is the reality we are speaking from.

And Silas, we do ordain you tonight, and Shuma too. We love you both. We minister that tonight, that awareness, the eyes that can see what the Father is doing and speak from that realm, minister from that realm, bring that realm into manifestation, in the name of the Lord.

Gary: Amen.

João Batista: I have known these people many, many years. There is a truth in this place, and the people who now are here, despite any and all circumstances, they received a purpose from God, an existential purpose that is like a motor that pushes them forward. There are no opposing circumstances that can resist the power of God that now today is put upon Silas and Shuma. With the authority of the Holy Spirit, step by step, day by day, they will fulfill the purpose of God that has been stamped in their hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silas: So, we will be starting a Bible study here in this place, thank God. Our project here will effectively take place at the beginning of June; we will be announcing this to everyone. But we plan to have it every Wednesday, depending on if Sérgio has Wednesday or Thursday available. We will be having a Bible study with this foundation that we heard today.

I will take this ministry from today. Bless all of you. We are closing up, so if you could all stand. Bruce, can you bless us?

Bruce: Father, we thank You for tonight. Thank You for Your Presence. Thank You for the price You paid on the cross; as Gary said, it transforms our lives every single day. Thank you for Your Word, thank You for the anointing of Your Spirit, that You have raised us up into Your Presence in Christ Jesus. Open our eyes to see that on a daily basis, we can walk with You, see what You are doing, experience Your miracle power in our lives, and be effective in doing Your will in the earth. Thank You for the oneness, thank You for this family. In Your name we pray, amen.

Gary: Amen.