

**“I Can’t Believe”
Craig Gleerup**

JESUS ENDURED THE NAYSAYERS

1. “I CAN’T BELIEVE...HE WOULD EQUATE HIMSELF WITH GOD.”

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” (Mark 2:1-12)

“I CAN ONLY IMAGINE...HOW MANY WILL GLORIFY GOD WHEN THIS MAN IS HEALED.”

2. “I CAN’T BELIEVE...HE WOULD EAT WITH SINNERS.”

¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Mark 2:14-17)

“I CAN ONLY IMAGINE...HOW MANY FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE BUILDS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.”

3. “I CAN’T BELIEVE...HE WOULD HEAL SOMEONE ON THE SABBATH.”

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” ⁴ And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him. (Mark 3:1-6)

“I CAN ONLY IMAGINE...HOW MUCH PEOPLE WILL WORSHIP WHEN THEY SEE A MAN HEALED.”

4. “I CAN’T BELIEVE...THAT HE THOUGHT HE WAS GOD AND COULDN’T GET HIMSELF DOWN FROM THE CROSS.”

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.” (Matthew 27:38-42)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:3-11)

“I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THE FATHER IS GOING TO DO WITH OUR LIVES NOW THAT JESUS WAS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN.”

BECOMING THE “I CAN ONLY IMAGINE” PERSON

1. **DIE TO SELF**

Memory Verse

*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
(Luke 9:23)*

A. TRUST IN HIM

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)

B. SEEK CLARITY

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

C. LEAVE INTENT UP TO GOD

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. (Proverbs 16:2)

GOING DEEPER

1. What situations tend to make you a “I can’t believe” type of person?
2. How do people react when you are making “I can’t believe” statements?
3. What situations tend to make you a “I can only imagine” type of person?
4. How do people react when you are making “I can only imagine” statements?
5. What helps you view a situation more positively?