Red Letters

The Early Words of Jesus

Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as u
r the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth,
s stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at
se they assumed he was among the other travelers. But wh
ng they started looking for him amo
hey couldn t find him they went b
arch for him there Three days later th
he Temple sitting among the religio
ng to them and asking questions. All who heard him were an
understanding and his answers. His parents didn't know wh
Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us?
and I have been frantic searching for you everywhere." "Bu

LUKE 5:17-20 (NRSVUE)

One day while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem were sitting nearby, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but, finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

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LUKE 5:21-26 (NRSVUE)

Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed— “I say to you, stand up and take your stretcher and go to your home.” Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen incredible things today.”

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“The effectiveness of your Christian life is determined by the level of limitations in your life.”

JOHN MAXWELL

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“When you are around these people you can just feel yourself descending. They pull you down. They take you down where the air is musty and everything seems dark. These joy deflating people drain the life and energy out of you.”

JOHN ORTBERG

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Limitations placed on us by others.

Limitations we place on ourselves.

1 CHRONICLES 4:9 (NRSVUE)

Jabez was honored more than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.”

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1 CHRONICLES 4:10 (NRSVUE)

Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory and that your hand might be with me and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!” And God granted what he asked.

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“When you feel defeated, tempted by sin or disadvantaged by failure, you know God will use their presence to give you strength. God uses their very presence, to fill you with a desire to follow Him in deeper ways. Such people we call them balcony people for their purpose is one of God’s greatest gifts in your life’. They make you a better person. They help you become a fully devoted follower of Christ.”

JOHN ORTBERG

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Red Letters

‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’

‘I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.’