

The 3 P's
One of those days suddenly
Matthew 9:9-13; Matthew 18:18-26

Introduction:

1. Definition: Suddenly – in an unexpected manner; unexpectedly; hastily; without preparation
2. God is a God of suddenly
3. Appears in the bible 87 times – if you add the synonym immediately the number goes up dramatically
4. God is still in the suddenly business
5. Today's readings – suddenly the leader of the synagogue came in; suddenly a woman came up behind Him and touched Him
6. Book of Acts has many "suddenly accounts"

Welcome to Life:

1. Who in their right mind told you that when you became a Christian everything will be all smooth sailing and without problems?
2. Just because you are going through tough times –does not mean you are out of God's will
3. The bible says "it rains on the just and the unjust
4. We can't blame God if things are not going well
5. God will never let you down
6. Many times, we forget to praise the Lord when things are going well
7. Ps 103:2 "***Bless the Lord oh my soul and forget not all His benefits***"
8. Every day we must make the choice to give Him thanks
9. God will change our hearts
10. God's Word is filled with many reminders of how powerful and vital a thankful heart can be in this world.
11. We can go from tough times to good times in a minute
12. Miracles can come suddenly

Seasons:

1. Our worship must not be tied to what kind of day we are having
2. We make big deals of our down days but not our up days
3. We have something to praise God for today
4. "***New wine in old wineskins***"
5. A leader of the synagogue suddenly bursts in
6. When we have exhausted all options, we turn to the Lord
7. Another suddenly – a woman comes up to Him
8. Her touch was different
9. She was ritually unclean
10. Can you imagine the synagogue ruler at that point in time?
11. Touching a dead body and a menstruating woman would require purification
12. Jesus rebuked those who placed ritual above ethics
13. But He did not need cleansing because a young girl was healed and the woman healed

14. Twelve is a significant number
15. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and reminds them of Hosea and quotes **Hosea 6:6** *"I [God] desire mercy, not sacrifice; the knowledge of God, instead of burnt offerings."*
16. Jesus is in effect saying – *"remember the whole message of Hosea"*
17. Hosea proclaims God's unfathomable love like no other prophet because he knew the betrayal, the rejection, the broken promises, the fleeting commitments, the disappointments by one who had promised to love him alone.
18. When Jesus quotes this scripture to the Pharisees he puts them in the place of their empty religious rituals as opposed to the mercy of Jesus

Suddenly:

1. I thought of the suddenly times in my life that changed or shaped the course of my life
2. Can see in them how God at work wants to bring life and hope to others through us?
3. **Ps 137:1-2,4** *"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. Upon the willows in the midst of it, we hung up our harps. How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"*
4. **"Hung up their harps"** means a type of their ministry, destiny, purpose, and future
5. The signs of living in captivity are the loss of your dream, the loss of your laugh, the loss of your joy, the loss of your testimony, the loss of your hope, and the loss of your fruitfulness.
6. Many Christians have *"hung up their harps"*
7. How do you change that?
8. You adjust to the seasons
9. **Psalm 126** tells us. *"When the Lord brought back the captive ones of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with joyful shouting. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them (the Jerusalemites) and us and we are glad.'*
10. When will we say that?
11. They suddenly moved from *"why me"* to *"what is next"*

Finally:

1. Life is a mixture – tough times as well as good times
2. In the midst of the bad times – if we are honest we still have so much to be grateful for
3. I doubt I will step into heaven care-free
4. We must find the grace to bear both the good and the bad
5. I worry about folk who are going through great times right now – they need grace as well
6. The more God blesses you the more difficult it is to keep your focus on Him
7. We need to remain faithful no matter what
8. How will we respond?
9. Are you anticipating and looking for the suddenly of God?
10. I am looking for the Lord to suddenly come in here right in this church and in you
11. And so, this morning I pray that this message has been a blessing and an encouragement to you