Getting Heaven's Attention

I. How do I respond when Heaven pays attention to me?

A. Jesus is always searching for the lost and the weak, giving them His attention (Luke 15:1-10).
B. Heaven's provision usually starts with an exchange of our weakness for God's strength (Matthew 11:28-30).
    1. Zacchaeus humbled himself—a good example of how to respond after encountering Jesus (Luke 19:5-10; James 4:6-7; Matthew 5:1-7).
    2. Naaman, the leper, would have paid any price for his healing. But the only payment required was humility and vulnerability (II Kings 5:1-14).
C. God is always better than we think. Naaman was healed, but God had something higher in mind—a permanent relationship with Naaman. And it was free (II Kings 5:15-19)!
D. God is serious about "free"! The attitude of our heart is the main thing (II Kings 5:20,25-27).

II. How do I get Heaven's attention?

A. The sincere cry for mercy (Luke 18:9-14)
    1. Blind Bartimaeus—"Jesus stopped" (Mark 10:46-52).
    2. The "unclean" woman—"Who touched my clothes" (Mark 5:24-34)?
    3. The cry of Jonah from the belly of the whale (Jonah 2:1-10)
B. Shameless, audacious faith (Luke 11:5-13)
    1. The woman who wouldn't take "No" for an answer. "For such a reply…" (Mark 7:24-30)
    2. The faith of the Centurion—Jesus was amazed. "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" (Matthew 8:5-13).
    3. Hezekiah's complaint—"I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you" (II Kings 20:1-6).
C. Acts of extravagant love and worship
    1. The "sinful" woman who anointed Jesus with perfume and oil (Luke 7:40-50)
    2. Paul and Silas (Acts 16:22-34)
    3. The widow's secret offering (Mark 12:41-44; Matthew 6:1-4)
    4. Cornelius' offerings of prayer and gifts to the poor—"a memorial offering before God" (Acts 10:1-6)
        a. Cornelius gave generously, despite a massive cultural and religious divide.
        b. This was love—love for God and love for others. The revelation he had from God was multiplied (Mark 4:24-25).

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