

# Annotated Bibliography of Faith and Disability Videos

Wheaton Center for Faith and Disability

Below are 30 brief TED-talk style mini-lectures. These videos are for your instructional use within the Wheaton College community. The videos were recorded at Wheaton College during a Faith and Disability Symposium on March 27-29, 2019 when Christian thought leaders (scholars and practitioners) gathered from around the world to engage these issues.

**To use any of these videos for instructional purposes at Wheaton College, email [thomas.boehm@wheaton.edu](mailto:thomas.boehm@wheaton.edu) for instructions on how to access.**

**TITLE:** Description (*Speaker*) [time]

- 1. DISABILITY AND THE IMAGE OF GOD:** *Imago Dei* is a theological tectonic plate. Three views (i.e., substantive, functionalist, relational) are presented along with implications for each in reference to people with disability. The main question here is what can disability teach us about the image of God and how might we apply this in our lives, and on our campus? (*Dr. Brian Brock*) [6:43]
- 2. DISABILITY AND GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT:** While popular conceptions of “gifts” are culturally valued items or assets, the Bible speaks quite differently. Using 1 Corinthians 12, this talk discusses people with disabilities and the way the Spirit brings gifts through them, and through everyone, for the common good. (*Dr. Brian Brock*) [7:08]
- 3. DISABILITY AND THE FALL:** How we understand disability and its relationship to the Fall (Gen. 3) is theologically complex but it does not have to be pastorally immobilizing. This talk helps you go beyond viewing disability only as an artifact of the Fall (the "disability as tragedy" narrative) and invites reflection on God’s love for everyone as they are, even in a fallen world. (*Dr. Brian Brock*) [6:47]
- 4. RELATIONAL RECIPROCITY:** Focuses on how people with disabilities have gifts to share with the Body and highlights the reciprocal nature of God-honoring relationships. Parable of the talents is referenced. (*Chantal Huinink*) Speaker has a visible disability. [5:35]
- 5. INDEPENDENCE VS INTERDEPENDENCE:** Shorter message (under 3 min) highlighting God-honoring interdependence through personal testimony, which runs counter to our natural inclination toward independence. (*Chantal Huinink*) Speaker has a visible disability. [2:53]
- 6. DIVERSITY AND THE IMAGE OF GOD AND MY HEAVENLY BODY:** Using personal testimony of friendship with Joni Erickson Tada, the assumption that heaven will be filled with only able-bodies is challenged as part of a "cult of normalcy." Explains the difference between healing versus curing in terms of our relationship with God. (*Chantal Huinink*) Speaker has a visible disability. [5:35]
- 7. DIGNITY OF RISK:** Chantal, who has Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair, describes going water-tubing and breaking her fingers. While healthcare workers questioned why other people "let" her do this extreme sport, Chantal explains how her dignity is honored only when she is given agency and choice. (*Chantal Huinink*) [4:32]

- 8. A BRIEF, BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON DISABILITY:** Confronting society's "disability as tragedy" narrative, this talk offers a biblical perspective whereby God's purposes overshadow human brokenness. Specific application of Gen. 1:27, Ex. 4:11, Ps. 139:13, John 9:3, 1 Cor. 12:22-23, and 2 Cor. 12:8-9 help shift our thinking away from disability as a result of sin and refocus on the holy purpose of displaying the works of God. *(Dr. Jeff McNair)* [7:12]
- 9. SOCIAL RAMPS – ENVIRONMENT APPLICATIONS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN:** Classrooms and other community settings often exclude those with social skill deficits. This talk applies the 7 Principles of Universal Design to social environments. Just as physical ramps create access for people using wheelchairs, social ramps create access for people with social skill deficits. The accessibility of God's Kingdom should be reflected in our social environments. *(Dr. Jeff McNair)* [8:58]
- 10. THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (LUKE 10:25):** In this familiar parable, Jesus describes a man left for dead on the side of the road and uses it to instruct how to love devalued people. Jesus shows how this man's mere vulnerable presence revealed the character of those around him. The presence of people with disabilities often does the same thing. *(Dr. Jeff McNair)* [4:39]
- 11. THE ART OF BELONGING:** The modern epidemic of loneliness reveals our deep longing for connection with others. Technology and consumerism often distract and dilute our efforts to connect deeply with others. The Church is (should be) a compelling and counter-cultural witness of God's Kingdom on earth where people find this deep sense of belonging. *(Dr. Keith Dow)* [6:26]
- 12. JOHN 5 AND THE LAME MAN:** The story of Jesus healing a man at the Pool of Bethesda offers insight into how Jesus views people with disabilities. Reflecting on a key Greek word in this passage allows exploration of possible distinctions between physical healing and spiritual salvation and illuminates both the power of Jesus and our true need. *(Dr. Ben Rhodes)* [6:28]
- 13. JOHN 9 AND THE MAN BORN BLIND:** In this story, Jesus declares the importance of "displaying the works of God." The lack of punctuation in the original Greek, however, leaves room to interpret these "works" in terms of (a) Jesus' act of healing the blind man, (b) the community's response, or (c) both. This talk also contrasts the blind man's accurately discerning Jesus' Messiahship while the sighted Pharisees are blind to this reality. *(Dr. Ben Rhodes)* [6:06]
- 14. COMPARISON OF JOHN 5 AND JOHN 9:** This talk compares the two healing stories of the lame man in John 5 and the blind man in John 9. The stark contrasts in these two healing stories serve to highlight a proper response to God's miraculous healings that sees past the signs to the Sign-Giver and culminates in worship and Gospel proclamation. *(Dr. Ben Rhodes)* [6:48]

- 15. LUKE 14 - MAN WITH DROPSY, PART 1:** This talk is part one of the chapter in Luke's gospel that is perhaps the strongest biblical injunction regarding people with disabilities. Rather than being left out or marginalized, Jesus highlights the presence of people with disabilities as guests of honor in the Kingdom of God as essential. (*Dr. Ben Rhodes*) [5:15]
- 16. LUKE 14 - MAN WITH DROPSY, PART 2:** This talk is part two of the chapter in Luke's gospel that is perhaps the strongest biblical injunction regarding people with disabilities. Rather than being left out or marginalized, Jesus highlights the presence of people with disabilities as guests of honor in the Kingdom of God as essential. (*Dr. Ben Rhodes*) [6:54]
- 17. WAYS WE WITNESS: DISABILITY AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH:** The Church bears witness to Jesus. How do people with disabilities fit into this mission? The Church's mission is discussed using biblical, not enlightenment, motifs. Our witness as a community of believers filled with the Holy Spirit must include the presence and gifts of people with disabilities. (*Dr. Ben Conner*) [6:58]
- 18. THE CHALLENGE OF PERSONHOOD:** Eugenics led to the Holocaust. This flawed philosophy, however, flourished in the United States among the intellectual elite. The question of what constitutes *personhood* too easily leads to eugenics unless human value is rooted beyond metrics of productivity and capacity and instead is firmly rooted in *imago dei*. Current trends, including euthanasia, are also discussed. (*Dr. Neil Cudney*) [7:00]
- 19. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEALING AND CURING (MARK 2):** Seeing the faith of four friends, Jesus healed the paralytic. While *curing* may involve physical restoration, *healing* involves restoring right relationship with God and others. Jesus did not cure everyone he met. Biblical faith can still flourish amidst an experience of disability even if God chooses not to physically cure. (*Dr. Neil Cudney*) [6:55]
- 20. SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS:** Students increasingly report mental health concerns that impact their ability to engage academically. This talk presents four practical strategies for faculty to support these students well. (*Kirsty Jones*) [5:32]
- 21. BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR EDUCATION:** Wheaton's culturally embedded values of achievement, performance orientation, and independence stand in contrast to biblical values of abiding in God, loving others, and rest in the soul. This talk speaks to ways to reshape teaching strategies and classroom culture to bring these values more in line with God's heart and purpose for us as His children. (*Kirsty Jones*) [4:29]
- 22. SEEING OTHERS: 5 ATTITUDE STAGES:** Five attitude stages are presented moving from *ignorance* to a more biblical attitude of *co-laboring* alongside people with disability. Ephesians 2:10 is highlighted to reinforce God's purposefulness in both His creative and redemptive endeavors. (*Dan Vander Plaats*) [6:06]

- 23. RE-MEMBERING NEIGHBORS WITH DISABILITIES IN OUTREACH:** People with disability often desire to be part of a church where they can belong and serve. Re-membering them involves not only bringing them to mind, but bringing them physically into a local expression of Christ's Body. *(Rev. Mark Stephenson) [6:49]*
- 24. BIBLICAL BASIS FOR MINISTRY:** What does the Bible say about disability ministry? This talk gives a brief overview of the biblical basis for disability ministry. *(Rev. Mark Stephenson) [6:51]*
- 25. MINISTRY WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:** This talk introduces an inclusive definition of disability and reviews various types of barriers preventing people with disability from participating in a church. These barriers include architectural, communication, and attitudinal (cf. "Seeing Others: 5 Attitude Stages") barriers. Ministry WITH people with disability, not just TO people with disability makes all the difference. *(Rev. Mark Stephenson) [6:44]*
- 26. RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE ABOUT DISABILITY:** Rather than addressing superficial political correctness, this talk addresses the essence of respect for people with disability by addressing language. A brief survey of language used to describe certain types of disability from monstrous, to idiot, imbecile, and moron, to the more modern mental retardation and intellectual disability. Person first language is also presented, along with its limitations. *(Rev. Mark Stephenson) [6:41]*
- 27. FOUR STAGES OF ACQUIRED DISABILITY (PART 1 OF 4):** Some disabilities are present from birth. Others are acquired later in life. In this video, Alice Teisan shares her own journey of acquiring a devastating and incapacitating disability describing her disease and its devastating symptoms. She ends this video with recommendations for how others can engage and support people with disabilities. *(Alice Teisan) [7:19]*
- 28. FOUR STAGES OF ACQUIRED DISABILITY (PART 2 OF 4):** This video is subtitled "The Mosaic of Broken Pieces" and describes more of Alice's journey from working as a full-time nurse to the more wrenching experience of having an acquired disability. Topics addressed in this video include vocation and the unbiblical American idol of "upward mobility," the church's blindness to invisible disabilities, and recommendations for engaging redemptively. *(Alice Teisan) [8:06]*
- 29. FOUR STAGES OF ACQUIRED DISABILITY (PART 3 OF 4):** This video is subtitled, "The Schoolroom of Suffering: Prayer and Disability" and is a reflection on Philippians 3:10, "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings." Alice shares more of her journey into intense suffering and lament along with and the importance of offering people impacted by disability the ministry of presence. *(Alice Teisan) [8:35]*
- 30. FOUR STAGES OF ACQUIRED DISABILITY (PART 4 OF 4):** This video is subtitled, "Redeemed" and traces God's redemptive path along Alice's trail of suffering. Alice describes how God led her to start *His Wheels International* – a Christian non-profit cycling ministry – and write two books about her journey, illustrating how God can work all things together for good. *(Alice Teisan) [8:41]*