

JESUS^{3D}

The Healer

Intro:

We are in the middle of a 16 week series in which we are looking at the life of Christ. (Review)

This week we come to another broad topic. Jesus' Healing.

Jesus Actually Heals

Sounds simple, but it's something that we often forget and even shy away from at times. Which is strange, because he did it a lot.

Looking for a text to teach on, it was hard to choose. There are just so many!

Mark - 17

Gospels - 31 (Nearly every other story is of Jesus changing someone's life with his healing power.)

Jesus is more than an idea

People think this kind of thinking is radical. (Barna)

But it's the gospel. Jesus did not just come and talk about the power of God's kingdom; he used that power to transform people's lives, to make them whole.

As we learn to be the church, we aren't just learning Theology; ideas about God. We want to experience his healing, and extend that healing to the world.

Three stories

This morning I want to look at three stories in which we see Jesus express the power of God's Kingdom through healing. In each of these stories we'll learn something about the way Christ works in us and through us.

1. Jesus heals what we need
2. Jesus heals when we need
3. Jesus heals how we need

Jesus heals what we need

Mark 2:1-12

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!”

Dramatic. Nothing could stop him.

Imagine the surprise. This guy wanted to walk. They’d heard the stories. They ruined someone’s house to get it! (This is dramatic. Imagine it happening now.) Nothing could stop this guy.

Not the healing he expected

He look’s at Jesus, and is told, “Son, you’re sins are forgiven.”

“That’s nice... but that’s really not what I came here for. I have a more immediate problem.”

Jesus is saying, “**No, you don’t.**”

“You think you know the main problem of your life, and you don’t.” Jesus is saying, “Look, I know you have problems. I know you’re suffering and I’m going to get to that. I

know you've been the victim of terrible things that weren't your fault, and I'm going to get to that."

But you need to realize the main problem in a person's life is never their circumstances; it's their sin.

Hopes and dreams

"If only I could walk again, then my life would be right."

"If I only had that job."

"If my marriage was only better."

"If I was finally out of debt."

Jesus knows that physical healing, the healing of our circumstances and suffering isn't enough.

The roots of the discontent of the human heart go deep. A lot deeper than our circumstances.

Christ wants to heal you completely. He healed the paralytic's legs, but not before he forgave his sins. **And through his suffering, those who saw him were amazed at Jesus.**

Jesus heals when we need

Jesus is punctual.

Mark 5:21-42

21 And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. 22 Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet 23 and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." 24 And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. 25 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, 26 and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. 28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." 29 And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had

gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” 31 And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” 32 And he looked around to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. 34 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

35 While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” 36 But overhearing[e] what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” 37 And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus[f] saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. 39 And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” 40 And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. 41 Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” 42 And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. 43 And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The story

Jairus was in a hurry. “*My daughter is going to die.*” (Crowds thronging, chaos)

Jesus says yes. (Imagine the excitement.)

Jesus though, does not hurry. In fact, he stops. “Who touched me?”

Imagine Jairus’ frustration, anxiety, confusion. (Acute vs chronic)

God’s blessing God’s grace, and his healing almost never seem to operate according to our schedule

Hindsight is full of blessing

While he was waiting for Jesus, I doubt Jairus could see any blessing. When we’re waiting it’s hard to see his grace.

Jesus looks at him after the crushing news, doesn’t give him time to respond, and says, “have faith.”

Jairus gave more, and got more.

He came to Jesus with enough faith for him to heal a fever. Jesus asked him to have faith in the face of death.

He expected to see his daughter get better, instead he saw the Son of God defeat death itself with a phrase. *“Sweetie, it’s time to wake up.”*

God’s delay in your life is the avenue of his blessing

You probably just can’t see it yet. (Paul thorn in flesh)

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Jesus heals how we need

Mark 10:46-52

46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” 52 And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Barty’s point of view

So we have a man, blind, no money, and he's pretty much stuck in the same spot. It stands to reason that the only way he could have come to faith in Jesus- is by overhearing it. (dramatize)

- Heard that he can heal
- wonder if he could heal me?
- He healed a blind man??

He tried to push through, but was silenced. *“He probably has way more important things to do than listen to me complain.”*

Verse 49. *“And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”*

Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.

He is calling you! We seem to think that God is the one hiding from us! He is calling you! Jesus wants to have mercy on you!

We, like the blind man, seem to think that we have to fight to get to God, to be something, to know something, to do something... and maybe, just maybe we can break through the crowd and get to God.

Jesus, is calling you!

How does he heal? **By grace.**

Conclusion

Maybe you are longing and crying out for his healing. Take heart, it is he who is calling you. **Isaiah 30:8** *“Waiting on high to have mercy.”*

Maybe you haven't experienced his healing. It's not because he doesn't care.

- Like the paralytic he's working in you before he works around you. Maybe he's using your bad circumstances for your good, and to shine his goodness to those around you
- Like Jairus his timing for you is perfect. Although it's harder to follow than you may have thought, his blessing for you is more than you can imagine.
- Barty shows us that he is not hard to find. He is calling you. Your inability and failure can not keep you from his saving grace and his healing power.

With Paul the apostle we can confidently hope that there will come a day when we know him as we are known. That we see him fully. That all of creation will be renewed. That complete and perfect healing will come. And on that day, none of your suffering will even be worthy to compare.

We'll all look back with a sigh of worship and adoration: “It was worth it.”