

July 9, 2023

Miracles of Jesus
The Healer (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus is the Healer – point the pain to the Savior.

Bumper In

Open and Hook (3min)

- Greetings, Card, notes in App
 - o Men's event – 8/4 (women 8/5)...get signed up (cross the line). Men \$5 tacos and cornhole tournament. Get connected. Isolation 50% of people and worse than smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
 - o Life Groups starting soon.
- **Where does the pain go?**
 - o Your pain – what to do with it?
 - o Pain of others – all on you?
 - o *For most of us, **we try to absorb it all**. Not working...we know it.*
 - *Bleeding onto others, anxiety for ourselves, cheering on those who are hurting not those who are healed.*
 - *But what are we supposed to do?*
 - *That is today...*

Prayer (with Silence)

Miracles (4min)

- Turn to Mark 2:1-12 (p.830)
- Mark Clark *Problem of Jesus*, ch.9 – miracles are widely attested around the world and throughout history.
 - o Many have thought (and still think) that miracles and science are incompatible, but the more we understand about science, the more we see how they fit together.
 - o Over 50% of people report to having experience a miracle or having a “supernatural” encounter of God
- *Three types: casting out demons, healing sickness, and power over nature
 - o Three weeks of series
 - Key theme (and focus of week 4) – miracles are signs that point to some ONE bigger. Did you want the miracle or the One who gave the miracle? The miracle is temporary, the relationship with Jesus is forever.
 - o Summary statements like Matt 4:24 (He healed people for the whole day), and individual stories (at least 37 miracle stories, 23 of them are healing stories).
- *Types of healing that Jesus did – list...
 - o Sickness
 - o Leprosy
 - o Bleeding
 - o Blindness

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- Deafness
- Mute
- Withered Hand
- Cut Ear
- Seizures
- Paralysis
- (Death...more than sickness)

Brought to Jesus (13min)

Mark 2:1-12

¹ When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ² Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, ³ four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴ They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷ "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

⁸ Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? ⁹ Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹¹ "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

¹² And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

- *Jesus is the Healer.
 - Didn't mind the interruption.
 - Stopped what He was doing for the needs of others.
 - I know this is hard. What we are doing is important.
 - But Jesus had a bigger job than you and I – to save the world!
- *The hope of heaven is more than the healing here.
 - He healed the man's sins.
 - This wasn't why the man was there – but it is what he really needed.
 - **Jesus wants to heal more than your first problem.**
 - The religious leaders were right to question...but they didn't answer the question.
 - Jesus read their minds – a big sign!!
 - Only God can forgive sins – and Jesus is God.
 - **Every miracle is a sign pointing to the LORD.**
 - Jesus is more than a Healer.
 - He is the Son of Man – a special title based on Daniel 7 of a figure who is both God and human who is appointed as the Lord over all nations for all

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eternity. (He is Son of God but that would cause Roman misunderstanding, and rarely used Messiah because of Jewish false expectations.)

- *Jesus is the Wounded Healer.
 - These stories made a bigger difference when the disciples reflected on them. Jesus forgave sins because of the price He would pay. This healing cost Him much.
 - I Peter – by His wounds we are healed. (Isa 53)
 - Visualize Christ this way, especially when pain comes (important how we visualize).

Point the Pain to the Savior (10min)

- Where do you point the pain? Absorb? On others?
- For years, I would meet with people in my office or Starbucks, hear their problems, and then go right into “problem-solver” mode. I had good intentions, and people usually received my advice well. But what was missing was the power of God.
- The solution is not problem-solver mode, or empathy-only mode, or untrained therapist mode.
- A new plan – point the pain to Jesus (other’s pain and your own).

HOW?

- *Listen and lead to the Lord.
 - Luke 5 – man came to Jesus and said, “if you want to heal me, you can.” Jesus said, “I do want to heal you,” and healed him.
 - Acts 3 – Peter and John had learned to look at people in need. The man wanted a handout, but they offered him healing in Jesus.
 - Listen with care. Then ask, “Where is Jesus in this?” Then pray.
 - I have been doing this more over the last few years. Most adults already know what they need to be doing but don’t have the strength to do it. Prayer is about unleashing God’s love and power into their hearts. People are moved to tears, and they take real steps to change or find comfort.
 - Psalm 22:1 – my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
 - Psalm 34:18 – The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.
 - Psalm 56:8 – You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle.
 - Psalm 61:4 – Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!
 - Listen well and lead people closer to Christ.
 - Listen and read healing stories or psalms with people.
 - **Humble surrender to Jesus will change your problems and your reaction to your problems.**
- *Allow others to carry your life – the pain and the party.
 - Luke 8 – Jesus healed a woman with bleeding issues and raised a dead girl from the dead.

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- In both cases He made sure to heal them socially as well – brought the woman in public so everyone would see she was healed, and He kept the death of the girl a secret so she could have a normal childhood.
 - Our social healing matters.
 - *Surgeon General just issued a report that shows our social isolation has devastating physical effects – worse than obesity, diabetes, or smoking.*
 - The journey...a brother came to church “I need connection and my church family.” Then life got busy and stopped coming as much.
 - Then a call and feeling the need. Get back in church and get onto a Team and in a Life Group. “No, don’t need that.” Then life fell apart, “OK I get it.” And he took the next step.
 - Then feeling stagnant in faith – need accountability and to dive deeper into habits. “Nope, I do enough. I don’t want people to know my business or problems.”
 - You can see the patter – eventually he let others in (not just me), and now he has a band of brothers (or a sisterhood of support) around him – and he is loving life.
 - Gal 6:1-2 – Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.
 - “The 6 people who will carry your casket should be carrying your life now.”
 - Meet with them often. The most productive people prioritize their relational health. (More on this starting July 30 – Supply Lines.)
 - **Once Jesus has healed you – get up and walk!**
- *Cut a hole in the roof to get people to Jesus.
 - Mark 3 – Jesus healed a man with a withered hand...on Sabbath. Rest is important but didn’t let the rules hinder what was right. Got Him in trouble – worth it.
 - The friends cut a hole in the roof – that is real love! There are amazing stories from people in our church.
 - Having dinner at the house and inviting church friends too.
 - Handing out an invite card when a new sermon series comes up.
 - Praying for people at work and pointing them to Jesus.
 - Pat’s story about the youth group young man who wore a hat to church. He must really dislike the Cowboys...
 - We have a posture of pursuit, anything other than sin to reach people with the Good News.
 - Cut holes in the roof! The world is hurting and Jesus is the Healer (don’t hold back the cure).
 - **What is holding you back?**
 - Make getting people to Jesus a priority of your life.
 - **Point to Prayer Card – BLESS...prayer list, pray every day.**

Punch (3min)

- Jesus is the Healer – are you pointing the pain to Him? (or trying to absorb it all in yourself?)
- The pain will come...make the decision today to point to Jesus.

Prayer

Bumper Out

Benediction – Col 2:7