

Expect A Miracle Part 1

Jesus Can Heal Any Disease

Luke 6:17-19, Matthew 14:34-36

Memory Verses: Matthew 18:17

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle) I want to tell you two stories about the times I personally witnessed a supernatural miracle that could not be easily explained. The first goes back 21 years ago to when I was a college student in India. We were doing ministry in a tribal area and were asked to come pray for a dying woman who had bone cancer. She had been bed ridden for weeks and was completely unable to move on her own. A group of about 10 of us laid hands on her and prayed for about 20 minutes. The next day she was able to not only move but walk around like she had never even been sick. I believe that if she had been able to find a hospital they would have discovered that she no longer had bone cancer. That was the first and only time I've been witness to a medical miracle.

The second story is very personal for me. When I was about 12 I started smoking. I smoked cigarettes from 12 to 21 and semi-quit when I went into full-time ministry. But I could never get the craving to go away. Even while I was in ministry I would still smoke every now and then, hiding it from my wife and everyone else. At one point I got back up to 2 packs a day while I was still in ministry. I felt a huge weight of conviction on me to stop hiding my habit and to get healthy. One Sunday, in church, the Pastor was preaching on the Isrealites crossing the Jordan river where the water would not part until the priest's feet touched the water. Instantly, like the very voice of God was speaking to me, I heard Jesus say, "if you put your foot in the water I will part the water." And I knew exactly what that meant. Go throw away your pack of cigarettes and I will take away the hold of nicotine on your life forever. So I did... and he did! I can't explain it any other way except to say, that from that moment to this very day, I have not had one craving to smoke a cigarette and I know I never will! That's two miracles; one of physical healing and one of psychological healing. I know for a fact that God still does miracles!

This morning we are starting a new series on the miracles of Jesus Christ. And, this is our very last series in our year and a half journey through the Gospels. During the Easter season for the next seven weeks we will be looking at the miracles of Jesus and what they mean specifically for us. Since the Bible tells of so many distinct miracles we will be categorizing these miracles into groups. Today we will start by looking at all the miracles where Jesus cured someone of a specific sickness.

Look with me if you would at Luke 6:17-19, Matthew 14:34-36, Mark 6:53-56. Jesus heals leprosy. Jesus heals fever. Jesus healed to such an extent that people from all over the region, from miles and miles away, came to him to be healed of their diseases... and they were cured by his power!

At some point we will all experience the struggle of disease. And when we do experience disease, we are thankful for doctors and medicine... but let me ask you this question; "who do you trust with your disease?" Here at Stone Creek we always say, "**Prayer is our first response, not a last resort.**" Why? Because it means that we depend on Christ to take care of us. Instead of trying every other means of healing first and then coming to Christ when there is no other hope... we come to Christ first and expect him to do what only He can do! So who do you trust with your disease? Today our prayer is that this would become your heart when faced with disease; **Before the doctor's diagnosis, medical procedures and prescriptions, my hope in the midst of disease is the healing power of Christ!**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

So, what can Jesus heal? Well, for one, **Jesus Makes Lepers Clean.** The first miracle we are going to focus on this morning comes from Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16, and Matthew 8:1-4. Notice the desperation of the Leper here. It says that he came imploring. Imploring is just a nicer way of saying 'begging.' Why was he begging for Jesus to heal him? Well, there are varying degrees of sickness. With modern medicine some diseases that were once lethal are now nothing to fear... like the common cold or diarrhea. If you have a cold or diarrhea you are probably not scared of a lengthy illness or death. Besides diarrhea is hereditary; it runs in our jeans. But for many in our culture, those with heart disease, cancer, COPD, Alzheimer's, AIDS, or other forms of life threatening diseases or chronic painful disorders, the desire for healing is a constant priority. If you have one of these diseases or disorders I'm sure you can relate with the Leper. He was constantly in pain, constantly worried about death, and constantly hoping for a miracle! So sure enough, when he found out there was a man who could perform miracles, he sought him out and begged him to heal him!

We notice his desperation and we notice his faith. It says he came kneeling, which shows worship! Regardless of his theology, he has found one who disease itself surrenders to, and he is worthy of worship and bended knee. He humbly declares the divinity of Christ. And then he declares to Jesus, if you will it, it will be done. This isn't a statement of hope. This is a statement of surety! He knows that if Jesus wants to, he can heal him! He doesn't doubt the power of Christ! If there were a formula to Christ's healing, then surely this is it; desperation & faith. We have a word for that here at Stone Creek; it's called Dependence! We depend on Christ for everything, including our healing! The man depends fully on Christ and is immediately healed. Notice the speed at which Christ heals him; it

happens immediately! Again, Jesus controls time! He can heal you now, or later; gradually or immediately, but regardless, his timing is perfect!

And, notice that when he was healed it says that he was made clean! If you've ever been healed from a disease you know that feeling! I'm finally clean! Let's just be honest, sick people are not clean... we try but it's hard to fake who we are on the outside when our insides are in turmoil! We may look clean on the outside but inside we couldn't be further from it! The reason Jesus tells him that he's now clean is because according to Jewish law anyone with leprosy was considered unclean, untouchable, and was to be put outside the camp of the people! Basically, you were as much of an outcast as you could possibly be! Can you imagine, not just tolerating the pain of the disease but also the pain of being separated from everyone you loved, your community, your means of worship. When Jesus healed him he didn't just give him his health back; he gave him his life back! Jesus tells the man to go show the priest that he is clean but then not to tell anyone about who healed him! But the Leper couldn't keep his trap shut. I love that the Leper couldn't keep it on the down low. When Jesus does something amazing in our lives, like he did with me and cigarettes... we shouldn't be able to shut up about it. Yes, it might be **hard to explain**, but one of the main reasons **Jesus heals** anyone is so they become a **witness** of his healing power and love! Watch this **Chosen** clip.

Real quick, Jesus gives us one more story about a Leper. Actually it's a group of Leper's. Look with me in **Luke 17:11-19**. Jesus heals all 10 immediately. They go show themselves to the priests. But after a while, one of them comes back to worship and praise Jesus! Jesus says to him... Rise and go; your faith has made you well! Does this mean that the other 9 had their leprosy come back! I don't think so. What I think it means is that while some will be healed physically, only those who allow their physical healing to change their hearts will also be spiritually healed! The nine were made well, but the one was eternally saved because of his faith! Jesus heals to draw men to himself in saving faith! So, question; "has Jesus ever healed you of any disease? Has he made you clean? How did you use that healing to increase your faith and the faith of others?" **Before the doctor's diagnosis, medical procedures and prescriptions, my hope in the midst of disease is the healing power of Christ.**

Secondly, **Jesus Makes The Faithful Woman Free**. Our second miracle that we are going to focus on today is found in **Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:42-48, and Matthew 9:20-22**. Here we see a story of a woman who had what the Bible claims to be "an issue of blood." We don't know what this disorder or disease was, but in Jewish culture she would have been treated just like the Lepers. She would have been considered "Unclean, and set outside of the camp as an outcast." Her condition and

experience would also be very similar to that of the Lepers. Again we see that she was so desperate that she, a woman who no one was supposed to touch, pressed through a crowd to get to Jesus. Again we see her faith. She knew that all she had to do was touch the garment of his clothes. And again we see the healing power of Jesus immediately heal her. Jesus even says, that he felt the power go out from him. Watch this clip from The Chosen.

I guess the question here is... if you are struggling with sickness... how far are you willing to go to see Jesus heal you? Jesus knew this woman before she was born. Jesus knew her condition and allowed it for years. Jesus knew she was there and wanted to be healed. But he still made her go through the crowd. For me he made me step my foot in the water and throw away my last pack. **I think sometimes the only thing keeping us from being healed is our willingness** to step out in faith and **go through the crowd**. **Before the doctor's diagnosis, medical procedures and prescriptions, my hope in the midst of disease is the healing power of Christ.**

Thirdly, **Jesus Makes Fevers Leave**. Our last miracle is found in **Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-41**. Here we see two things that jump out at us. First, Peter has a mother in law meaning, that Peter has a wife. As far as we know, Peter is the only disciple who had a wife. That's a whole other sermon right there. Secondly, his mother in law is sick with a fever. Now, this could indicate one of two things, which we aren't given clarification on. It could mean that she merely had a cold or a small sickness, or it could have meant that she was suffering something more lethal in nature. If it was more lethal then Jesus heals her like he heals the others we've discussed. But I like to think that it was actually just a little sickness. You know why? Because we've already seen that a loving Jesus can and is willing to heal our big diseases. But this one shows us that he also cares about the small ones. One last **Chosen** clip. **Before the doctor's diagnosis, medical procedures and prescriptions, my hope in the midst of disease is the healing power of Christ.**

Application

So the application is clear. We see some common things among these stories. First, Jesus wants us to depend on him. A desperation for his touch and a faith in his healing power is a good formula to see disease and sickness healed. **Before the doctor's diagnosis, medical procedures and prescriptions, my hope in the midst of disease is the healing power of Christ.** Secondly, Jesus loves us and is willing to heal us. It's his healing love that draws us towards his salvation.

Conclusion

Third, and this is the most important. Yes, Jesus wants you to be physically healed and he can physically heal in all ways, but most of all he wants you to be spiritually healed. The greatest disease we carry is the disease of sin and unlike our diseases which can be also healed by doctors and medicine, Jesus is the only one who can heal us from our sins. The last part of [Matthew 18:17](#) says; “he took our illnesses and bore our diseases” all illnesses, physical and spiritual. So, if you are physically sick, are you depending on Jesus to heal you? Secondly, if you are spiritual sick, are you ready for Jesus to heal you? All you have to do is repent of your sin and place your faith in Him.