

Free From Sickness

“Nothing’s Impossible” Miracle Series

Did You Know?

The way the Gospels and other New Testament passages deal with sickness would cause many to wonder about the connection between sickness and sin. We saw how Jesus dealt with it in Mark 2 on Sunday, but others such as James will also tie these two together. Healing miracles seem to require a purity in one’s heart and faith that God can do the impossible for Jesus to heal. We will investigate the connection between sickness and sin throughout our study this week, as well as some other elements of healing miracles.

Monday, April 29, 2013

Read: Matthew 9:1-8

Discuss: The Gospels can sometimes contain the same account with a different perspective.

Pastor preached on this account from Mark, but today we will see a key difference in the account from Matthew’s point of view. Matthew does not explain that the man was dropped down by his friends through a ceiling. He is the only one not to mention this. However, the key points of the passage are still all there, the man’s healing, the ensuing conversation about sickness and faith, and the reaction of the crowd. Perhaps the others add the part to show the level of faith the friends had in Jesus!

Act: Nothing should separate us from a complete trust that Jesus will heal any disease. There is nothing out of His reach and nothing the Creator cannot heal. We put up barriers of disbelief and doubt all the time, but God will do amazing things if we would just believe that He is able. What do you need to trust in God to heal in you today?

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

Read: John 9:1-8

Discuss: Jewish theology had an understanding that because of the curse in Genesis 3 and passages like God visiting the sins of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20:5) to mean that parents’ sin could cause illnesses from birth. Some also believed that a pre-conceived soul was given a body at birth, so that a soul could sin before birth. This is why the disciples ask Jesus about the man born blind. But Jesus gives another option, that the man’s blindness serves God’s purpose of receiving glory! Sometimes sickness shows God’s glory more than complete wellness.

Act: When we see people with disabilities and wonder why God does not heal them, there are times when God receives glory by healing them on an extremely public stage or when their testimony of God might be greater when they minister to disabled people who would not listen to the gospel if shared by someone who is not like them. What we consider imperfect God can use for His glory. Let us all shine for Jesus so His glory will be everywhere we go!

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Read: Luke 17:11-19

Discuss: Leprosy had to do with a number of skin diseases in the Bible times. There is a list of diseases categorized under leprosy in Leviticus 13. Of these ten lepers, the foreigner, the Samaritan, whom the Jews would have rejected as a half-breed heretic, is the only one who is grateful for what Jesus did. A leper would be considered unclean and would have to be approved by the priest in the temple. Jesus sends them there to get checked out. While all ten are initially cleansed, in verse 19, Jesus reaffirms this man is clean. But what about the other 9? Might it be possible for them to not be cleansed by the time they reach the priest because they were not grateful?

Act: When God does spectacular things in our lives, we need to show our gratitude to Him, not just through word, but in deed as well. God's healing is not a right; it's a blessing. We need to recognize God's kindness and revere Him for it when He acts on our behalf. What can you thank God for today?

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Read: Mark 3:1-6

Discuss: This account of healing happens to a man who cannot work the fields anymore or provide for his family because of his withered hand. This could have been a medical issue or genetic, but it could also have happened on the job. Healing a person was actually considered work, and therefore violated the "Don't work on the Sabbath" rule (Exodus 20:10). Jesus shows the anger and grief of God because the religious leaders are more concerned about the fine points of the law rather than this man's health.

Act: This passage is clear that Jesus wants us to live in health. This does not mean that we always will be completely healthy, but that God desires health for His people. In fact, part of the atonement is about divine healing being available to the believer. Don't ever feel like God wants you to be sick. Don't demand healing, but humbly seek it from Him. Is there something you want to take before His throne and ask for divine healing today? Walk into His presence with confidence!

Friday, May 3, 2013

Read: Luke 8:40-56

Discuss: This is one of the most interesting accounts of healing because Jesus, in the midst of going to help a girl who is sick comes into contact with a woman who goes after her healing. In the end, Jesus ends up raising the girl to life because she dies en route. The power of God to heal is a byproduct of His power to create and restore life. If Jesus can raise the dead, He can heal any disease, no matter how far along it is! This woman seeks His healing and seeks Jesus for it. She does not get passive about her need for His healing touch!

Act: Some people get passive about healing or make excuses for not being healed. When they go up to be prayed for, and don't receive their healing, they stop trying. This woman keeps on seeking and receives. We need to continue to seek Jesus for our healing. Don't give up on it! Continue to seek Him!

Saturday, May 4, 2013

Read: Acts 3:1-10

Discuss: Some people don't seek healing because they're used to the systems that help them while they are disabled. This man in Acts is living off of the kindness of others, and while that is sometimes the place in life we find ourselves, God wants to restore us so that we can be a blessing to others. It's good to accept mercy and charity, but it's also good to be able to be generous and giving. This man receives something better than money. He receives a way to give back through his healing.

Act: It's so easy to get comfortable with the way things are in our illnesses. People wait on us hand and foot, minister to our needs, and find ways to help us out of their own graciousness. It's a wonderful testimony to see others ministering to our needs. But as in all things, there is a time to receive and a time to give, and Peter and John help this man to get back to work and produce again. Let us all seek to enrich the lives of others whether we need healing or not!

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Read: Mark 5:1-20

Discuss: This week, Pastor Jonathan is preaching on spiritual miracles, especially exorcism of demonic forces. Read through this passage in preparation and consider the intricacies of the spiritual realm.

Act: If you have any questions Pastor Jonathan has not answered, feel free to ask him after the message or during the week!