



CHAPTER 5

He's the God of Miracles

GOSPEL MIRACLES

35 detailed accounts: 18 healings, 4 deliverances, 10 supernatural miracles & 3 dead people raised (See John 21:25).

& then Jesus said: John 14:12,13. Mark 16:15-20.

→ *Have you ever seen people healed? Have you ever witnessed a miracle?*

→ *What part did they play in Jesus' ministry? What part should they play in ours? How do you react to John 14:12-13 and Mark 16:15-20?*

VEIXING QUESTIONS

Why SO LITTLE here? Why so much more BACK THEN and OVER THERE (Africa, Asia, S. America)?

→ *Why do you think they see so many more miracles and healings, even people raised from the dead in what we might call 'third world' countries? What do they have that we don't? What are they doing that we're not?*

Can we CULTIVATE an environment RIPE for the miraculous?

→ *Can we? How? What would it look like? [You might want to answer this question at the end!]*

HEALING IS A MULTI-FACETED TOPIC

(6 components taken from the healing of Jairus' daughter)

1. Jesus is DRAWN to WORSHIP (v22,23)

- * Does worship DRAW ON THE HEART-STRINGS of God?
- * Does worship reveal an OPENNESS OF HEART?
- * Is worship SEED SOWN that REAPS A HARVEST?

→ *How would you answer those 3 questions? (See John 4:23)*

- * One thing for sure: Jesus never TURNED ANYONE AWAY who FELL AT HIS FEET.

2. Jesus is DRAWN to STRONG FAITH (v23b)

- * Faith is not UNREALISTIC, but does SUBMIT to a STRONGER REALITY: Recognises God as a HIGHER power and GREATER name.

→ *Jesus often compliment people He had or was about to heal on the strength of their faith? Why? Why is faith so key?*

3. Jairus recognised the power of the LAYING ON OF HANDS (v23)

- * CONTACT POINT for releasing faith and TRANSFERRING the ANOINTING (Mark 16:18, James 5:14-15).

→ *Do you feel comfortable when people 'lay hands' on you when they pray? Do you understand why they do so?*

4. Jesus stepped in to COUNTERMAND FEAR (v36)

- * FEAR is the ENEMY of FAITH → It opposes, negates and shuts it down.
- * Jesus's word to Jairus & you = Don't be AFRAID. Just have FAITH.

→ *How does fear manifest itself in the context of sickness and healing, and how should we deal with it?*

5. UNBELIEF makes a lot of NOISE; don't LISTEN (v39)

- * The devil operates in the realm of SUGGESTIVE THOUGHT = "DID GOD REALLY SAY?" (Genesis 3:1, James 1:6-7)
- * He wants to push you into a POSITION of UNBELIEF, so we must go back every time to WHAT JESUS SAID.
- * Do everything you can to FEED your FAITH and STARVE UNBELIEF.

→ *Read Acts 9:37-41 and compare it to this healing story. What are the similarities?*

6. Faith is released by WORDS (v41)

- * Mark 1:41-42, 4:39, John 11:43, Proverbs 18:21.

→ *Why did Jesus issue commands to dead people and inanimate objects?*

SUMMARY

Think of the principles of healing as a STOOL with SEVERAL LEGS.

- * If it has ALL its LEGS, it is balanced, stable and works well.
- * Similarly, you can't have a ONE-LEGGED STOOL.

→ *Do you think the stool metaphor works? What other legs are there? What are the most important ones? What happens when one of the legs goes missing? Are there any other theological scenarios for which the stool legs picture is helpful?*

There are still things we DON'T UNDERSTAND about healing, but there is much that we DO KNOW.

→ *What are the things that puzzle you most about healing? What does God's Word say about those things? Which is a stronger force in your thinking: what you have seen in your experience or God's Word? Which should it be?*

a) There are numerous biblical PROMISES of healing.

→ *Can you list any of those promises?*

b) There are numerous biblical EXAMPLES / PRECEDENTS of healing.

→ *Which are your favourite biblical healings and why?*

c) Jesus came to demonstrate the FATHER'S HEART, to make His WILL KNOWN + to model NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRY (John 5:19-20; Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38).

→ *So, what is the Father's heart as far as healing is concerned? What is His will? What does New Testament ministry look like?*

d) We have been given a CLEAR MANDATE to heal the sick (Matt 10:8).

e) There is power in the NAME OF JESUS (John 14:12-14, John 16:23-24, Phil 2:9-11).

f) Faith and power are released through the LAYING ON OF HANDS and ANOINTING WITH OIL (Mark 16:17-18, James 5:14-16).

- g) We are told that UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES the power of God was PRESENT to heal the sick (Luke 5:17, Acts 5:15).
- h) We pray for sick in CORPORATE gatherings because Jesus taught that there is strength in PRAYERS OF AGREEMENT (Matt 18:19-20).
- i) There are supernatural healing GIFTS, given as the Holy Spirit wills (1 Cor 12:4-11).
- j) There are biblical and historical characters who seem to CARRY A HEALING ANOINTING above and beyond.
→ *Who was that (biblical and historical) and why? Which ministries that emphasise or practise healing have you learnt from over the years?*
- k) These signs shall follow those who BELIEVE (Mark 16:17-18).
- l) God CONFIRMS THE WORD with signs and wonders following (Mark 16:19-20).
→ *If we preach and teach on healing and pray for the sick, we'll see more people healed and if we don't, we won't. Discuss!*
- m) Gifts of the Spirit, particularly WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE, seem to operate as CATALYSTS.
- n) Certain factors act as a BLOCKAGES / HINDRANCES to healing: e.g. Unbelief, fear, unforgiveness + unrepented sin (Mark 6:1-6, 11:25, James 5:16).
→ *Why are they blockages? Can you think of any other hindrances?*

In essence we purpose to CULTIVATE AN ENVIRONMENT RIPE with as many of those elements as possible.

→ *Do we? Have we? Where is there room for us to grow? [Answer: Plenty, for sure!]*

FOOTNOTES

1. We always minister with a spirit of GRACE.
→ *What is that spirit of grace and how does it relate to how we deal with the sick and healing? What, for example, do we do or not do, say or not say?*
2. What if people don't get healed? We PICK THEM UP and PRAY FOR THEM AGAIN.
→ *What would you say to people who say that if you pray for people more than once it demonstrates that you didn't have faith the first time (think stool!)*
3. How do we respond when people die 'before their time?'
 - * We acknowledge that the strongest FAITH you can exercise is one that passes over to the other side with a sense of MATURITY and DIGNITY.
 - * That the best WITNESS you can give to your family and friends is a FAITHFULNESS, PEACE AND LOVE that lasts right to the end.
 - * That the great JOY you can have is 'GOING HOME.'