

THE HEALING JESUS

By Margretha Esprey
Christian Centre Abbotsford

19 March 2023

Key verses: [John 4:43-5:18](#)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus performed two healing miracles in this portion. The one was for a desperate father who pleaded for help for his son and the other for a poor helpless, suffering man. When we read this Gospel carefully, we find that Jesus never performed miracles as an end in themselves. He did miracles because of great compassion. He felt for people, but they also always taught something about the Lord Jesus Christ. We find that every miracle points to some truth about the kingdom of God, something that we need to know. They are signs and pointers to the greatness of the life that Jesus, the Son of God, wants to give us and the goal was that that person should come to faith in Christ. There is no greater miracle than a sinner finding forgiveness and life in Christ.

Let us look at **today's** 2 miracles and find out what Jesus wanted us to learn from these [John 4:43-54](#).

IMPORTANCE OF FAITH:

Jesus was travelling from Jerusalem to His home country which was Galilee (approximately 94 km). He stopped off at Samaria for a glorious occasion, His message affecting a whole city where people believed because they had heard His Word. **We don't read about any miracles** being performed there. He SPOKE and they believed and souls were saved for the kingdom of God! From there His journey took Him to Cana where He had performed His 1st miracle. People welcomed Him with open arms. They were enthusiastic because they had also been to Jerusalem and had seen the wonders and signs Jesus had performed. It was not because they believed that He was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. **Let's investigate** something here: Is it sufficient to depend on signs and wonders only, to form the foundation of your faith? Remember that Satan can also use lying signs and wonders. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 tells us that Satan, the lawless one, works with power, signs and lying wonders.

Note how the nobleman's faith grows and develops.

He was an important man, a man of high stature probably from Herod Antipas' palace, but all of that mattered nothing compared to his **son's life**. **He'd heard that Jesus was in Cana** so travelled the 26,5 km South West from Capernaum and pleaded, yes begged strongly that Jesus would come to his home and heal his son.

In speaking about this miracle Spurgeon said, **"the child was at death's door, therefore his father begs that mercy's door may open."** Jesus heard his cry for help, but first He challenged him and all the bystanders, by declaring, **"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."** Jesus is looking for faith that will believe before anything is seen! He invited this man to this higher kind of faith, a faith that does not have to see anything, a faith that is confident and trusting simply on the basis of Jesus's **word**. The father did not care what others said, he persevered and pleaded that Jesus would come before his son died. We notice that he rose to the faith Jesus was calling him to (Verse 50). When Jesus **said, "Go your way your son lives"**, he believed the words of Jesus – even when spoken from a distance. Before he had seen the

evidence, he left for home, believing that the miracle had taken place. When this was confirmed by the servants who met him, his faith was further strengthened. With great excitement and awe he told his whole household what had happened. They compared the time of healing with the time that Jesus had spoken. Both times were identical – 1pm! And they all believed in Jesus. They believed in more than the fact that the boy was healed, they believed in Jesus, they saw Him as the Son of God, the Messiah. What a glorious miracle!! This is what **Jesus wanted**. **Jesus was touched with compassion for this man's cry for help**, not only was the son healed, but the purpose of the healing was wonderfully fulfilled – he and his family believed in Jesus!

Jesus wants every one of us to believe like this. In John 20:25-29 we find that doubting Thomas did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus until he could see and feel **the marks on Jesus' hands and feet**. **In verse 29 Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."** Faith based on the words of Jesus, given to us in the Bible, **God's Word**, is needed and brings blessing. Signs and wonders must not form the foundation of our faith.

At Mount Sinai incredible wonders and signs took place, they even audibly heard God's voice, but not long after, they built and worshiped a golden calf. Faith in miracles does not necessarily mean that a person is born again. Nicodemus believed like this and there is no indication that he eventually followed Jesus. This father started with a low level of faith, but rose to a level where he did not have to see first. His faith rose to where it became faith for eternal life, based on the promise of God in His Word. Jesus, the same as God the Father, speaks and it is done!

OCCASION and DISTANCE:

The first miracle took place at a happy occasion, a wedding, the second one at a time of great worry and tragic circumstances. Do you need help today? You can put your trust in Jesus in every single situation. Also note that distance does not matter. The kilometres between the two cities did not matter. What power, what glory! As He speaks here, it happens there!

Question yourself today, what kind of faith do you have? What is the level of your faith? I ask you, as I ask myself, "Do you believe God's Word that says, "By His stripes you have been healed?""

ACTION:

Faith is more than words; it also involves action. Consider the story of a man called Charles Blondin who was a famous tightrope walker. In June 1859 he attempted to become the first person to cross a tightrope across the Niagara Falls. He did this a number of times. On occasion he walked in a sack, on stilts, on a bicycle, in the dark. Once he even carried a stove and made an omelette. Then one day he walked across, blind-folded, pushing a wheelbarrow. A large crowd of people had gathered on the banks of the river, applauding and praising him. Blondin **stopped and asked the audience, "Do you believe that I can carry a person across in the wheelbarrow?"** The crowd enthusiastically shouted, **"Yes, oh yes. You are the greatest tightrope walker in the world. You can do anything!"** "OK", he said, **"Someone, get in the wheelbarrow....."** No one did.

Faith without works is dead – James 2:17. If it does not lead to actions of obedience to back it up, it is dead and inoperative. When you choose to add action to your faith, you release the power of God into operation. **It's easy to say, "I believe", but will you be willing to get into the wheelbarrow?** The father in our miracle, got up and left for home before seeing. He believed the word of Jesus. We see it also in the occasion when four friends took their paralyzed friend to Jesus and opened up the roof of the house to get him to Jesus. They were willing to take action. When Jesus saw their faith, He not only healed the man's body, but also forgave his sins. Their faith had caused them to press through every obstacle to the point of physically tearing a hole in the roof to get to Jesus. That is faith in action!

Choose a healing Scripture, or some other Scripture that speaks to you about your situation, fill your heart and mind with it and keep your focus on Jesus, drawing near to Him in worship and He will cause His faith to flood your heart and mind, opening up to you **God's limitless possibilities for your life. God's faith in you**, will enable you to receive the fullness of His blessings, grace power and purpose.

IS HEALING ONLY FOR BODIES?

Jesus wants to do more than just heal your body, He also wants to heal the totality of who you are and bring forth your Father's purpose for your life. He has good plans for you, child of God. Will you believe and yield, release yourself into His hands to do whatever He wants to? What is your faith like today, do you trust Him sufficiently to do that. Will you believe His word and stop looking at circumstances?

Let's now consider the 2nd HEALING MIRACLE and find more truths that Jesus wants to teach us.

John 5:1-18

This miracle also points to a truth about the kingdom of God. It clearly shows us how great, marvellous and powerful our God is. He is awesome, sovereign and so majestic. In the previous miracle the father believed the word of Jesus, but here we discover that miracles do not necessitate any greatness in the person who receives the miracle. This paralyzed man certainly knew nothing about Jesus. Jesus was now in Jerusalem. He had returned for another Feast. There at the Sheep Gate was a pool which had five colonnades where many sick, paralyzed, blind and crippled lay, waiting for a healing that they believed would come from the stirring of the water.

There were many people, but we read that Jesus went to one lonely, sick and helpless man who had been lying, waiting for 38 years. **I'm sure that Jesus must have felt such compassion for this poor person**, what a desperate way to have to live. The help that he needed had been long delayed. He was a defeated man, but Jesus came to him and Jesus had the power to change his whole life and offer him glorious, purposeful life.

It appears that Jesus knew all about him, how long he'd been there and what was wrong with him. Jesus went to this man, the same way He went to the Samaritan woman. He moves towards need, towards broken-hearted sinners and verse 8 tells us that He acts on their behalf. This desperate man was not a man who had faith, or was a so-called 'good man.' **The pool of Bethesda** in which he put his hopes, was not working too well for him. In spite of all the years, he was still waiting. He just could not get into the water on time. Then Jesus, the Son of God, arrives and says, **"Do you want to be healed?"** Like the Samaritan woman, this man did not know who was speaking to him, but Jesus healed him, despite his lack of understanding.

Just imagine it, a man who had not been able to walk for 38 years – **and Jesus just says, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."** **This man had been sick for so long, that he had most probably become complacent about it, it had become a way of life.** It is possible that you, the sick, needy person can become comfortable in your condition and maybe even enjoy the fact that nobody can **expect you to do anything, you've got no responsibilities, you can just lie there and others must look after you**. It appears that this man had come to a place where he blamed others for his condition - **they didn't help him to get into the water** on time! Jesus wanted him to consider his situation and decide whether he really did want to be made well.

We see in the Word that the words of Jesus had immediate effect – this was a healing miracle, not a gradual getting well – it was instantaneous. It is also wonderful to note that his legs, even after all those years, were immediately strong enough. He could stand up on them, he could bend down, pick up his bed and walk! What glory! This is our Healing Saviour.

This man had all his hopes on the pool, had not trusted in God's grace, but Jesus cut across everything the man had said and acted sovereignly, powerfully, graciously.

If Jesus' purpose had been only to heal his body, this man would have been in danger of gaining the world, but losing his soul, of being healed in his body, but not his spirit. Did this man start following Christ? We don't know, but we know that at this stage Jesus had not yet fulfilled His whole purpose. Verse 14 tells us that afterward Jesus went to the temple to look for the man and He addressed the cause of the sickness which had been sin.

We learn a lot about Jesus here,

- He acts sovereignly by choosing one man out of many and displays His mercy to this one.
- He acted graciously. Jesus ignored all the man's mistakes, excuses and sin and healed him in sheer graciousness.
- He acted directly. He didn't use the pool, He stepped into this man's life and saved him, even though he had given up hope and didn't 'deserve' the help.
- Jesus acted purposefully. He had a purpose for this man's life and said to him, "*Sin no more.*" He intervenes in anyone's paralysis so that they might serve Him for the rest of their days.

What about us here this morning? Do these truths apply to us?

Whatever your need is:

Fill your heart and mind with the Word. Sow the truth into your heart and then allow the Holy Spirit to breathe on it and make it come alive within you. Speak His Word, His promises - Keep your focus on Jesus. Draw close to Jesus, clear away distractions, hear His voice and receive His divine power and grace. He will cause His faith to flood your heart and mind, **opening up to you God's limitless possibilities for your life.**

Our faith is not based on what we can see or feel, **our reality is God's Word**. So, Meditate on it.

Here are some promises in God's Word:

PROVISION: Abraham said, God will provide – Genesis 22:8. God rained down manna on them to eat – Psalm 78:24

FEAR: God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind – 2 Timothy 1:7

WEAK AND WEARY: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear - Psalm 27:1
You are my hope, O Lord – Psalm 71:5
The Lord is my strength and shield – Psalm 28:7
Those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength – Isaiah 40:31

SAD: I am He who comforts you, who are you that you should be afraid? – Isaiah 51:12

SIN AND SICKNESS: God forgives all your iniquities and heals all your diseases – Psalm 103:3

MINISTRY CALL:

- (1) Do you know Jesus? Have you put your trust in Jesus, have you repented from the old life and made Jesus Lord of your life? If you haven't, don't wait. Just less than 4 weeks ago my husband passed away. In his later years he had walked closely with the Lord and we had beautiful times of prayer, worship and **studying God's Word**. I know that now he

is with Jesus, a knowledge that is so very precious to me and I cherish in my heart. My **friend you don't know when your days on earth will end. Bill was 86 years old, but your days may be much shorter. You do not know. Please make sure that you are ready!**

- (2) Maybe there is someone here who has come to Jesus, but a part of your life is still crippled or paralyzed? You just have not managed to get victory over a habit, or maybe there is fear in your life, things are not going the way they should. How much longer are you going to lie around waiting for someone else to help you, to put you into the pool? **Don't you know that God's supernatural power is available all the time and you do not have to lie in sorrow and self-pity?** He knows you, everything about you, all you have felt, thought or done. He even knows about the weaknesses that you have hidden away so carefully, believing that only you know **about them?** **Let's read Ps 139:2-4, "You know my sitting down and my rising up, You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold oh Lord, You know it altogether."**

Child of God you have a sympathetic High Priest. Share your needs and desires with Him, trust Him. His power is sovereign, it is available to you.

- (3) Is your desire to serve the Lord paralyzed? Do you keep saying, "Lord use me," but you don't seem to be able to get going and do anything? Call out to Jesus, listen for His voice, you will get a knowing in your heart, and then get up and act!
- (4) Is your body sick? When He speaks, diseased muscles, nerves, organs, yes every part of your body, has to obey.