

Lesson 8 – Various Healings by Jesus

Text: Matthew 4:23-25; 8:2-4, 14-17; Mark 1:21-45; Luke 4:31-44; 5:12-16

Main Characters: God, Jesus

Key Passages:

- Mark 1:38 – Jesus’ purpose was not to exclusively heal people, but rather to teach them.
- Mark 1:45 – People thronged to Jesus when they heard about his teaching and power.

Main Storyline:

Still in Capernaum, Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath to teach. The people there were astonished and impressed by Jesus’ teaching because he taught as one having authority (from God), not like the scribes (the typical teachers in the synagogue). One of the men in the assembly was possessed by an unclean spirit (demon). In the middle of Jesus’ lesson, he cried out, “Leave us alone! ... Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are... the Holy One of God!” Perhaps Jesus did not want the demon to reveal who he was to the crowd, so he rebuked the demon, commanding it to be silent. Then he told the demon to come out of the man. The demon caused the man to convulse violently before crying out and leaving the man.

Everyone in attendance was amazed by what they had just witnessed. Not only was Jesus a teacher unlike any they had heard before, but he also had authority over unclean spirits to the point that they had to obey him. As a result of these events, Jesus’ fame began to spread rapidly throughout Galilee.

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus and his disciples went to Peter’s house. Peter’s mother-in-law was there, sick with a fever. The disciples told Jesus about her, and Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up. Immediately, she became well, got up, and began to serve them.

That evening, when the sun had set, people began to bring Jesus all of their sick and demon-possessed family and friends. (Note: it is likely that the people waited until after the sun had set because it was the Sabbath, and they did not want to violate the law by “working” and bringing their ill to see Jesus.) Jesus healed every one of the people who had been brought to him. He also cast out the demons from those affected, but, as before, he did not allow the demons to speak and reveal his true identity (the Christ). These miracles of healing gave evidence to the multitudes that they could trust the authenticity of Jesus and his teachings; he demonstrated that he was the Son of God by these miracles.

Early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and went to a solitary place to pray. When Peter and the other disciples woke up, they realized he was gone and began to search for him. When they found him, they told him that everyone was looking for him. Jesus told them that it was time to move on to other towns and preach about the kingdom of God there. He reminded them that preaching was his purpose.

As Jesus was preaching throughout Galilee, a man with a severe case of leprosy saw Jesus. The man came to Jesus and bowed down to the ground before him. The man said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” (Note: the man obviously had strong faith that Jesus *could* heal him; the only question was if Jesus *would* heal him.) Jesus was full of compassion for the man and said, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

As soon as Jesus had spoken the words, the leprosy left the man; he was healed. Jesus strictly warned the man not to tell anyone. He instructed him to show himself to the priest, bringing the appropriate sacrifices (see Leviticus 14), and go his way. Unfortunately, the man did not listen to Jesus, and he began to tell everyone about what had happened. As a result, huge crowds began to follow Jesus in order to hear him and be healed. There were so many people that Jesus could not enter the city nearby without being surrounded by people. Even though Jesus stayed in deserted areas, people continued to come to him from every direction. As he had done earlier, he often withdrew from the people to be alone in prayer.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) While Jesus could heal, cast out demons, and do other miracles, preaching was his primary mission.
- 2.) Prayer is critical to our spiritual health; we must make time to pray, even when we are very busy.
- 3.) Obedience to Jesus is critical, even when we do not understand the reasons for his commands.