

## JESUS WORKS MIRACLES

Have you ever wondered, "If I have enough faith, will Jesus heal me?" In Luke 4:38-44 Jesus Christ healed many people. It was part of the outworking of His mission as the Anointed One from God who proclaimed good news and set free the captives and oppressed. He is God-with-us, as promised, and announced the coming of the kingdom of God in His person.

**1- Jesus heals a woman with a word.** Synagogue services normally ended by noon, and people often gathered in homes for food and fellowship. Jesus went to the house of Simon Peter and Andrew, with James and John. But there was a problem. Peter's mother-in-law had been seized by a great fever. They asked Jesus to do something.

Luke the physician writes, "*Jesus stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve Him.*" This was an instantaneous healing, and the only time in the gospels that Jesus addresses His words toward a disease. He had just come from the synagogue, where the people "were astonished by His teaching, for His word possessed authority" and He had healed a demonized man by rebuking the spirits. All this demonstrates His divine authority of the Son of God come in the flesh.

But the woman didn't become an object of attention or fame. She was a saved servant, who was their happy hostess from the moment she was healed. "The church has rightly seen in her a living example of what Christ wants to do in believer's lives," observes RK Hughes. "The measure of a Christian is not how many servants he has, but how many he serves."

**2- Jesus heals an entire crowd.** "*Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.*" Mark says the whole city came, with diseases and demons. Jesus did not heal them by word of His mouth, but by the touch of His hand. Such personal attention was unknown in Old Testament and rabbinic literature. He released His power one by one.

"In this outpouring of Christ's power, all history is meant to see His kingdom authority, not an impersonal force. It is unequalled power, but personally and lovingly administered in Jesus' tender hands," observes Hughes. He used both word and touch. Luke records, "*demons also came out of many, crying 'You are the Son of God' but He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ.*" Because they are not His heralds.

Jesus presents Himself not as the political savior the people wanted, but as God's suffering servant, come to do God's will. Demons know who Christ is, but mere knowledge only adds to condemnation at the judgment. Saving faith believes in Him with all the mind, heart, and will.

**3- Jesus has even more work to do.** After laboring all night, verse 42 says "*when it was day, He departed and went to a desolate place. And the people sought Him and came to Him, and would have kept Him from leaving them.*" When Jesus healed, "*power went out from Him.*" Ministry and compassion drains one physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. Do you follow the Master in rising early to pray before distractions of the day? Prayer isn't so much telling God what you want as getting your will lined up with His, according to His written-down Word.

Jesus grew up doing this, and models it for us as he pursues God's objectives. He said to them, "*I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns as well: for I was sent for this purpose.*" And He taught in the synagogues of Judea. This is the first of 31 references to the "*good news of the kingdom of God*" in Luke's gospel. And "*I must*" shows divine compulsion, because Jesus was anointed with God's Spirit to accomplish His appointed work.

**4- Jesus has God's authority and power.** He has come not just to heal and cast out demons but to proclaim salvation. The "*kingdom of God*" refers to the miracle of the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ in the hearts, minds, wills of the people. Passages such as Luke 4 capsule the ministry of Christ, and show that proclaiming the kingdom was accompanied by miracles of healing to demonstrate the reality of the kingdom. Jesus Christ Himself fulfills God's promises "Christ is the appointed healer of every evil which sin has brought into the world. He is the true antidote and remedy for all the soul-ruining mischief which Satan has wrought on mankind," observes JC Ryle. "Christ is the universal physician to whom all the children of Adam must repair, if they would be made whole." Put all your trust in Christ Jesus today! ☐