

Lessons Jesus teaches by Jairus and the Paralytic Man

Today we are going to look at two of the non-messianic miracles.

I will be asking you to think about the rhetorical questions that I ask today, and truly answer them for yourself.

- **Prayer**

Jesus Heals the Paralytic Man

Mark 2:1-12

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’ ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Jesus first visit to Capernaum

In the beginning of our scripture text we see that: “Jesus again entered Capernaum” this raises the question of what Jesus did the last time he visited Capernaum. In Mark 1:21-34 we can see that he got rid of impure spirits, healed the diseased, healed the sick and preached in the synagogue. All of these wondrous miracles he performed and because of his good works; he must have been popular because it tells us in vs. 32-34 that the whole town gathered to see him.

Jesus second visit to Capernaum

Jesus had already established his reputation in the few days prior when he had first visited Capernaum. His reputation having been established caused such an influx of people that there was no room in the house where he was. The people outside would have been pressing in to see him. In the house would have been many who were oppressed by unclean spirits, others who would have been suffering with

illness or disease. Regardless of the mix there would have been many who had come to seek Jesus because they knew he could heal.

Notice that the “scribes” who were teachers of the Law of Moses, or in more modern terms lawyers, were there to test Jesus and accused him of blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins and Jesus knew of their presence so It is interesting to note that Jesus forgave this man his sins instead of telling him to take up his bed and walk. Jesus clearly showed his authority to forgive sins here, despite the presence of the scribes.

The Companions of the Paralytic Man

Who were the four men who accompanied the Paralytic Man?

We can only speculate but reasonably so...

It is obvious that these men cared about the paralytic man. We are not sure but they could have been relatives or friends.

What do we know about the situation of the Paralytic Man?

One thing we know for sure is that they wanted this man healed and that they believed Jesus could do it. We also can get the sense of urgency they felt and perhaps the criticality of this man seeing Jesus based on the extreme measures they took to get him in to see Jesus.

Putting ourselves in the place of the four Men

Visualize with me for a minute if you will. Here are four desperate friends or family members who believe that Jesus is the only hope for the paralysed man. When they get to the house, they can't get inside. Place yourself in the group...

- Would you have been disappointed?
- Would you have been frustrated?
- Were you afraid for the paralytic man because of what the man's Physicians have said?
- Would you possibly be thinking Jesus was his only hope?
- Why wouldn't they take the chance and just wait for Jesus to come out?
- Why didn't they just try to see Jesus on a possible later visit?

Medical appointments today are bad, but let's say a single clinic had a cure for a serious disease and one of your relatives was badly afflicted. What circumstances would have to arise for you to cut a hole in the doctor's office roof and lower a person to the doctor?

Now that you have thought about it personally, what do you think about their decision?

Clearly by their extreme actions they believed that time was critical and Jesus was the man's only hope. Don't forget the agreement of the Paralytic Man...

How do you think the owner of the house felt when he saw what was happening?

What do you think about their decision?

- I think we can safely say that the man's need was quite desperate
- The paralytic man must have trusted his friend's judgement to let them cut a hole in a stranger's roof and lower him down through the hole.
- I think we can also say that these men had a lot of faith in Jesus and they certainly weren't "quitters"

What are we doing today to bring those in need to Jesus for healing?

A humorous thought

Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven instead of take up your bed and walk.

Is it possible that when Jesus was in the house preaching, teaching and healing, that when the assembled people heard a noise, looked up and saw the roof being ripped open and a man being lowered through the roof that Jesus stopped what he was doing and came over.

Further and this is where I find a bit of humor... When Jesus healed the man he said his sins were forgiven. He did this to show that the he had the authority to forgive sins.

But... I had a humorous thought... Is it possible I that in addition to healing the man's spirit and body he may also have been giving the owner of the house a message about the hole in the roof?

A Serious Thought

When Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven instead of take up your bed and walk, he was telling the scribes (lawyers) that he was God because they believed that only God could forgive sins. This is why they accused him of blasphemy.

Jesus was clearly showing his authority in his statement: "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier; to say "your sins are forgiven" or to say "get up take your mat and walk"?"

Many people miss the point Jesus was trying to make when he said: "Which is easier ..." When sins are forgiven the scribes would not see any immediate physical evidence of the healing. When the body is healed there is an immediate and tangible physically observable result. By healing the man he was proving that he had the power and the authority. Jesus demonstrated that he was God in several different ways:

- 1) He forgave the man's sins
- 2) He healed the man's injuries
- 3) He knew the thoughts of the scribes

Conclusion, Reflection and Application for today

This is another clear example of Jesus showing his power, authority and his divinity. Jesus dealt with all the Paralytic man's needs not just the healing of his body. He educated the scribes and he set the record straight.

This miracle evokes some powerful questions about our-selves for consideration:

- 1) Do we have faith in Jesus to heal us?
- 2) How dedicated are we about getting to Jesus?
- 3) Do we need him desperately?
- 4) Have we consented to doing what must be done to get to Jesus?
- 5) How willing are we to bringing our friends and family to Jesus?

We are told in John 15:12: ¹² *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* In Hebrews 10:24-25 we are told: ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,* ²⁵ *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* We must ask ourselves are we as members of the body of Christ looking after each other with the same level of care and diligence as the four men who were helping the Paralytic Man?

Final thought

If getting to Jesus introduces situations that are awkward, embarrassing or of great cost are we willing to do what it takes to get others and ourselves to Jesus?

The next miracle we are going to look at this morning is when Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter

Let's look at this miracle synoptically.

When we say synoptic we mean from multiple points of view. In the gospels we have various writers telling us about the same events in Jesus life. As we go through this we will look at Matthew, Mark and Luke's perspectives:

Mark 5:21-24; 35-43

²¹ *When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.*

A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

³⁵ *While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"*

³⁶ *Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."*

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Luke 8:40-42; 49-56

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

⁴⁹ While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore."

⁵⁰ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

⁵¹ When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵² Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

⁵³ They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Matthew 9:18-19; 23-26

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

Let's discuss some background information here....

What was Capernaum like?

It was a significantly populated, wealthy industry center for fishing and trade situated on the Sea of Galilee. It was heavily influenced by both the Greek and Roman cultures. In fact it was large enough to have its own Roman Garrison. It was placed there to maintain peace and order in the region. This area was Jesus' stomping ground. He was familiar with the area and its people. It is here where Jesus did much of his early ministry.

What was a Synagogue and what was Jairus' Job?

A Synagogue was and is a Jewish temple. It was used as a place of worship. The Ruler of the synagogue was responsible for:

- Supervision of Worship
- Administration
- Buildings
- Maintenance

In modern terms the Ruler of the Synagogue was essentially the manager for the temple as he was the Chief Elder.

What did Jairus, who was the ruler of the temple - do?

He fell at the feet of Jesus pleading with him for his daughter. This is unusual... Remember his job? He was very closely tied to the Pharisees and the Jewish temple by virtue of his role and his Job. What is interesting to me is that Jairus who was high ranking official in the temple hierarchy, humbled himself to fall before Jesus, when at the time the priests were actively against Jesus and did not believe he was the messiah. He must have had a revelation of who Jesus was. He put his daughter's well-being above his religion but not above his faith.

How do you think Jairus felt when he heard that his daughter had died?

I think he would have felt that he was too late. He would be thinking if only I had gotten here sooner, my daughter would not be dead. He would be grieving for the loss of his daughter. Some people from his own house that he could trust had just told him the news so he knew it to be true and not a deception.

Making the situation even worse, Jairus had just seen the Woman with an issue of blood healed. He and many others had just witnessed a major miracle. This would have confirmed and boosted Jairus faith in the ability of the Lord to heal.

Some things to think on:

- We often place limits on the ability of God based on our own experiences.
- Many times in our lives we may experience Gods power; why is it that immediately afterward our faith is tested in a crisis.

- Is faith that is not tested really faith?

What is faith?

The bible tells us in Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

And it tells us why it is important in verse 6

^{w6} And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Let's look at what Jesus said to Jairus in Mark 5:36:

"Don't be afraid; just believe."

In Luke 8:50 we are told Jesus said:

"Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

In the case of Jairus he had two choices:

- 1) Don't believe that Jesus could heal his deceased daughter
- 2) Believe that Jesus could heal his deceased daughter

He could choose to live in faith or live in fear.

Note the logic of thought here... if Jairus believes that Jesus cannot heal his daughter all hope for her is lost but if he believes he has been told his daughter will be brought back from the dead.

What did Jairus have to lose by believing in Jesus?

Nothing

What did Jairus have to lose by not believing in Jesus?

The life of his daughter

The example of Jairus daughter shows Jesus authority even over life and death. It glorifies God and shows us that all things are possible for they who believe in Jesus. The situation brought Jairus to a place in his life where he needed to believe in Jesus.

Have you ever been to a place in your life where you had to believe? Were you without hope and Jesus met you in your hour of need?

Many of us come to places in our lives where we feel that God has abandoned us. The scripture tells us this is not so. I came across this poem that describes the situation admirably:

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamed he was walking along
the beach with the Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed
two sets of footprints in the sand,
one belonging to him and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life
there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the
very lowest and saddest times in his life.
This bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

*"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
you'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life there is
only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when I needed you most
you would leave me."*

The Lord replied *"My precious, precious child,
I love you and would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints in the sand,
it was then that I carried you."*

We may not always notice but he is always there...

Do we have that child-like faith that Jesus can meet us where we are today?

In Jesus ministry, when he would heal someone he would ask them if they had the faith. Why?

It is because in order to RECEIVE healing we must first believe that Jesus CAN heal us. The lord always gives us the choice to believe in him or not to believe in him. Faith is critical. With faith nothing is impossible.

Once again I ask the question: Do we limit God based on our own experiences?

Remember the people from Jairus house. In Luke 8:49?

⁴⁹ While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore."

Sometimes others can rob our faith because of their lack of it. Don't let this happen. Keep your eyes on Jesus and what he can do, not on what our experience that of others tells us is possible.

What are Wailers anyway?

They are people who harpoon whales with sharp... ah, umm no wait a minute that's Whalers...

Oh yes, I remember now: They are people that were hired to wail, moan, tear their clothes and express through physical actions the grief of the people who experienced a loss of life in the family.

In the text we see that Jesus told them to be quiet.

Why?

Perhaps it is because a major part of faith is not just in believing but in actually confessing our belief to others.

Can our faith endure being mocked or ridiculed by others?

Can our faith be tested and endure persecution?

Have you ever thought: "What if I am not healed, will I look foolish?", "What will others think of me?", or maybe "Will my credibility suffer?"

It is interesting to note in my life that God has always given me what I needed but not always what I wanted. Sometimes there is microwave healing other times he works in our lives to bring about the best healing for us and for his glory. I am reminded of an old saying:

- I prayed for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve
- I prayed for prosperity and God gave me the intelligence and the strength to work
- I prayed for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome
- I prayed for love and God gave me troubled people to help

- I prayed for favors and God gave me opportunities
- In Gods infinite wisdom, I got nothing I wanted but everything I needed.

God always answers our prayers; sometimes we need to listen closely to what his answer is...

In this miracle, we see that Jesus called the spirit back because the passage tells us her spirit returned. This is how we know she was truly dead. Jesus said she only sleeps because he was giving the people a lesson on eternity. He wanted each of us to know that death is not the end. Our Lord woke this little girl from death. Think about it...

Conclusion, Reflection and Application for today

Jesus can heal anything. He can heal any disease. He can even cure death. Do we believe? Are we willing today to work out our faith? Sometimes God heals and restores more than just the body, sometimes he is healing the entire person. Unfortunately for many of us who still grieve God also heals on the other side of the veil. And while we may not understand we must have faith.

Jairus' faith was tested and he believed. After all Jesus went on the trip to his house with him. Each step Jairus took would have been a further test of his faith and his resolve to see his daughter brought back to life.

Jeremiah 32:27

²⁷ "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Final Thought

So what did we discover today, in these two miracles...

If getting to Jesus introduces situations that are awkward, embarrassing or of great cost, are we willing to do what it takes to get ourselves or others to Jesus? because folks, He is the only answer. In our lives, our faith will be tested, it's up to us. God does not interfere with our choices. We have to choose whether we are we going to curse God and blame him for our circumstances or if we will take up our mat and walk?

■ Prayer