



Risen Savior Lutheran Church

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When Jesus stooped down over the bed of Peter's mother-in-law, stayed out on the front porch all night to heal the diseased, demonized people of Capernaum; He was showing visibly what was hidden but always true about Him. He's the Creator, Redeemer of the world. The demons know who He is; are all too eager to broadcast. **We know who you are, the Holy One of God.** He silences them, as its written **His Word processes authority;** and it is not given to demons to proclaim Him, yet they know Him.

The miracles give us a glimpse of the world's Creator/Redeemer at work, merely object lessons to His preaching. For it is His preaching, the preaching of the Good news, of forgiveness and life in His kingdom that is foremost, then and now. What He must do. **His Word processes authority.** Healing then, what about now. Don't expect miracles; they're not to be expected. But learn from them. Study them. Unpack them. Revel in them. They're as much as gifts to you as they are gifts to those who received them. Peter's mother-in-law got sick again, died, just like one day each of us will die. But the miracle reminded her, reminds you, whom to trust in the hour of your death, even for the days of your living. The One who rebukes demons, diseases with a word is the One who defeated death once for all in His death.

Note here, these are personal miracles. Jesus doesn't do mass healings. Each person is dealt with individually, personally. He could have wiped out disease in all of Israel, in the whole world, with a mere thought. But He didn't. No matter how big the crowd, He touches each and every one of them. He heals them one at a time, even if it takes all night to do it.

He bends over the bed of Simon's mother-in-law, seeks after her, comes to her. That moment when Jesus stood over her, she had the undivided attention of the Lord and Creator of the universe. You and your prayers have the same undivided attention of the Word who made all things and upholds all things in Himself. Jesus deals personally and individually with each one of you, because you are precious to Him.

We are quick to worry, doubt His care, think we have to take matters into our own hands. Think He's too involved in other matters, that you're left to

fend for yourself. And shame on us when we think we're in control. Or think all things, all will not work out for our good according to His promise.

The martyrdom of the early church teaches us well. Early Christians would be brought before rulers and told, *you must worship Caesar*. They said we cannot worship any but the One true God. *Just go ahead and burn incense to Caesar, then, go you're way and worship who ever you please*. They said, we cannot even for a moment of insincerity, to get out of the trouble were in, worship Caesar as a god. *Well, I know, we don't believe he's really a god either, just do it as your patriotic duty, I don't want to have to kill you. They said, you can not kill us. How can you say I can't kill you, look there at the bodies of my enemies, I can have you pierced with swords right now, how dare you say I don't have the power, I can certainly kill you.* They would respond. You cannot kill us. It is the Lord that gives and the Lord takes away. He alone has power over life and death. If it is our appointed time to die, our souls will immediately be embraced by our Lord in paradise, while our bodies rest in the ground awaiting resurrection in His 2nd coming. But you have no power over life. You can not kill us.

As for your confession as well, cancer cannot kill you, perhaps you're given a temporary physical healings in this world, perhaps not; but heart disease, nor any other wretched disease can kill you; neither can car accidents, or old age. You belong Him. He is the great physician of soul and body. He chastens those He loves and He heals. Always. If not now, you will have it as you desire. **His Word processes authority** in your life. Jesus has provided for you, you individually a complete perfect healing of your soul. And while your body may show signs of the brokenness of life in this realm of sin, know that it will not last. The Lord rebukes all that is wrong and you will see the fullness of His glory soon. **By His wounds we are healed.** That power, that authority. In Christ, your fever is broken, the demons are silent, there is no pain, no suffering, no cancer, no heart disease. Yes, for this present moment, you will have to suffer these things. We all die. No matter how many miracles may come our way in this life, no matter how many times we get well, one day we won't. And it won't be as though Jesus failed us.

The victory has been yours all along in Christ. David knew this well, from the psalms, **the Lord is my salvation, whom shall I fear? the Lord is the stronghold of my life, of what shall I be afraid?** Your healing is complete for eternity. His death and life for your death and life. **His Word processes authority**, just as much now as it was then. Poured out in your

life. He comes to you personally again, with healing. By His authority, forgiveness, sacramental gifts. No greater miracle than that, short of your rising from the dead. That Word, that authority, that truth preached to you.