

Healing in His Wings

“While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died, but Matthew 9:18-34

To Do:

-life examples, stories, personal, general illustrations, metaphors, pictures (preach imaginatively)

-3-4 on deeper meaning of miracles

-make more expository?

-crowds in house - scoffers (include disbelief here?)

-Pharisees at end - don't see their own need. critical. don't see they are dead, blind, dirty, and oppressed by the devil.

Intro

- **we live in an incredible time...**

- modern medicine & technology have extended the life expectancy more than ever
- modern entertainment has provided us with more opportunities and exposure to see the world and art and types of food than ever before in history

- **and yet, as much as ever before, we live in an age of turmoil, disease, and brokenness**

- how sad, that though we have more resources at our fingertips, we are also as broken as any society before us
- diseases and depression and physical ailments are still rampant
- last century more deadly than the history of humanity combined
- our governments and leaders and institutions are no closer to success and peace than generations past

- **in the age of science, medicine, therapy and entertainment, we are just as broken as we've ever been**

- Marx used to say religion was the opiate of the masses, and that as humanity applied itself with all the new technology and learning at its hands, the need for religion would slowly die away, and therefore he officially declared God to be dead

- **And yet, things haven't improved...**

- I think most today are willing to admit that the solution to humanity is not humanity
 - we need help. we are broken. and we cannot simply help ourselves. we need another. we need a greater Physician.

Intro to Sermon: we are covering a lot. much about healing. addressing many difficult questions. covering almost 20 verses.

- here's the big idea: Jesus is the Great Physician
 - there is no one else like him
 - there is no thing Jesus cannot heal
 - read through our verses and notice many aspects of Jesus as our healer, address some difficult questions, and end with some encouragement and a warning (keep this?)

**these verses give us such an incredible view of who Jesus is as a healer, as a Great Physician of souls...*

**each story gives us a window, a look into our savior, into Jesus.*

Jesus the Healer

Verse 18-19 - Jesus is interruptible

- “while he was saying these things...a ruler came in and knelt before him...and Jesus rose and followed him...”
 - better than any doctor or health care system...he can be interrupted
 - better than any pastor - he doesn't take days off, he doesn't need to rest, he is available
 - better than any friend - he won't let us down. he himself isn't needy and therefore unable to meet our needs
 - he is interruptible and available
 - he's willing to leave his preaching, and get his hands dirty
 - “he followed him”, just goes with us, is willing to follow to our issues
- **notice this man's humility...**
 - “he knelt...”
 - is this our posture towards God?
 - when is the last time you literally knelt before God?
 - this is the proper posture before God, even before Jesus
- **notice this man's faith**
 - “my daughter has just died...”
 - what?
 - this was his first reaction, this was the first thing he did the moment his daughter died
 - he thought of Jesus

- what is our first reaction the moment something tragic happens?
- is it to run to Jesus?
- “but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live”
 - this man had incredible faith

**ironically, because Jesus is so interruptible, this story gets interrupted by another story...and we get another picture, another glimpse into this healer Jesus...*

Verse 20 - There is No One Jesus Won't Heal, Jesus is a Compassionate Healer

- “a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years...”
 - even to us, this is a bummer. we have compassion on this woman
 - but there is some religious and cultural history that helps us see her plight even clearer
 - *at the risk of raising some questions of OT law, let's read from Leviticus*
 - *when we read of being “unclean”, this has to do with what was required to enter the tabernacle and to offer sacrifices to God - it doesn't necessarily mean unclean like sin, but unclean as in you have not done all you need to in order to go worship...*
- Leviticus 15:25-27,31 says, “If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies, all the days of her discharge, shall be to her as the bed of her impurity. And everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity. And whoever touches these things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening...thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst”
 - this woman has essentially been living in isolation for 12 years. she has been unable to enter into the temple to worship her God. she is a social outcast
 - and yet, Jesus has compassion on her

**one more aspect of Jesus is revealed as he heals this woman...*

Verse 20-22 - Jesus is superior to any other healer

- “a discharge of blood for twelve years...”
 - Luke tells us “though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone”
- Imagine medicine back in that day...
 - there were physicians, but their knowledge was so minimal
 - there was a limit to what they could do...
- But there developed a tradition from an obscure prophecy found in Malachi 4...

- “But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings...”
Malachi 4:2
 - or as the KJV says, “healing in *his* wings”
- Hebrew word for wings - “kanap”
 - also “edge”, “corner”, “hem”, “skirt” - as the tip of a wing, the edge or fringe
 - this is the same word used when David cuts off a corner (“kanap”) of Saul’s robe
- a tradition developed that when the messiah came, he would have healing in his wings...
- **this woman** had visited so many doctors
 - she tried everything she could
 - and when she heard of the possibility that the messiah had come, she had one last hope...
 - the wings, the corners, the hem of his robe
 - and it worked.
 - Jesus is superior to any other healer
 - **there is no one or no thing that can heal like Jesus**

**then we move on to our previous story, and we see yet another aspect of our Healer King Jesus...
...not only is he superior to all other healers, there is nothing beyond his power to heal...*

Verse 23-26 - No Disease or Circumstance is Beyond His Power to Heal

- this girl was dead.
- the funeral procession and mourners were already at the house
- and yet, even death cannot overcome Jesus and his ability to heal
 - there is nothing Jesus cannot heal
- we see Jesus conquer death in an even more significant way as he himself dies, and rises again
 - “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first-fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 - there is nothing Jesus cannot heal

**our next story resists a previous truth about Jesus...that he is superior to any other healer*

Verse 27-31 - Jesus is superior to any other healer

- **the two blind men** had hope that the Son of David could heal them...
 - never before this moment had someone who was blind healed in history
 - no one had yet been able to cure blindness, even through a miracle
 - and yet Jesus could
- **notice also the persistent faith of these men**
 - “...two blind men followed him, crying aloud, ‘have mercy on us, Son of David. When he entered the house, the blind men came to him...”
 - it appears Jesus walks right past them at first!
 - he continues on his way, and waits for these men to follow him into a house until he interacts with them
 - and then he rewards their faith
 - it appears Jesus rewards persistent faith.
 - maybe God does not answer certain prayers until we persist in them, like the widow who would not leave the unjust judge alone until he brought her justice
 - Jesus desires us to continue in prayer, to never give up our pleading with him

**and in the last story we read, we see Jesus is a supernatural healer*

Verse 32-34 - Jesus is a Supernatural Healer

- Jesus here confronts not only physical diseases and death, but Satan himself
 - many physical issues have spiritual roots
 - Jesus can conquer both
 - Satan has no power whatsoever over Jesus, he only has the power that he is allowed to have, and even that is taken away by Jesus
- Also, let this remind us - Jesus was supernatural
 - this is so obvious its almost ridiculous to say
 - however, many today still claim that Jesus was merely a good man, a good teacher, but he was not God
 - these stories are only explainable by supernatural power.
 - there is no other way around it - Jesus had supernatural power. He healed by supernatural power, by the power of God.

**truly, Jesus is the Great Physician, the Healer above any other Healer*

**and yet, these stories and truths may raise some difficult questions for many of us*

This Raises Some Questions on Healing

...what about me? does Jesus still have power to heal? why doesn't he always heal?

1) Does Jesus Still Heal?

- yes
 - we are told to pray for healing...
 - “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15 (ESV)
 - we see healing happen after Jesus...
 - “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted” Acts 20:7-12 (ESV)
 - I know many here have witnessed healings

2) Why Doesn't Jesus Heal Everyone? Why Didn't Jesus heal _____ ?

- this is a very difficult and sensitive question
 - here is what we do know...
- **lack of/or no faith**
 - dangerous. yes and no.
- **on the one hand...God says...*
 - “You do not have, because you do not ask” James 4:2
 - “But he must ask in faith, without doubting, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways...” James 1:6-8
 - faith is almost always required and present when God heals
 - the Dad believed
 - the Woman - pushed through a crowd to touch Jesus' garment

- the blind men - were ignored at first, and then followed Jesus into the house and pleaded with him
- yet there are times when Jesus doesn't heal faith filled people

**before we move on...I really do think we can grow as a church in this area.*

- **we can grow in this...**

- Jesus really does offer healing, he really does say to ask him for radical things in faith
- it does not honor him not to ask
- it does not honor the Holy Spirit to not even pursue physical healing
- do we have faith like this Dad, like this woman, like these men?
- Even when our cries aren't answered at first, to press on?
- yes and amen, we should use the gifts of medicine and wisdom God has given us. But we should also use the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!
- "this kind only comes out through prayer"
 - keep praying
 - keep asking
 - keep believing

- **and yet, just because we believe something doesn't mean God is obligated to do it for us...**

- **many of us in this church, if not all, have asked God to heal someone we knew**

- and I'm willing to guess we all had true faith that God could heal
- we prayed, we fasted, we believed
- and yet, God did not heal

- **when God doesn't heal, it is not always because of a lack of faith**

- while faith is essential, it does not make God our personal butler
- God is God, and he does not always do what we ask...
 - *Paul had a thorn in the flesh, had plenty of faith and God didn't heal*
 - *Timothy and a sickness in his stomach, and had plenty of faith and was not healed*
 - *Jesus had plenty of faith, and yet he still suffered on the cross*

**foundational to when we face disappointment when God doesn't heal is this truth...*

- **A Foundational Truth: God is Sovereign**

- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9
- God’s will and God’s ways are not ours, and there are times we simply do not understand what he is doing, or why he isn’t doing something
 - like Job - he won’t always give us an answer he simply declares “I am God”
- Sober Truth: there is mystery, we don’t get all the answers, but one thing we do know is God is in Control, and God is good.
 - will you trust him?
 - “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” 1 Peter 4:19

**and so...*

- **even a little faith is enough for healing if God desires it**
- **and even great faith is not enough if God does not will it**
 - the Dad, who cried, “Lord I believe, but help my unbelief”
 - **in fact, faith is rewarded not so much for its amount, but for its object**
 - faith the **size of a mustard seed** moves mountains, not because it is a lot but because it is faith in Jesus
 - this is important
 - even a little faith in Jesus is infinitely mightier than much faith in anyone else
 - like two Israelites walking through the Red Sea
 - one totally confident
 - one freaking out, but still walking through
 - which one was saved?
 - both!
 - and so it is with faith in Jesus
 - much faith will be much more rewarding, but the most important thing about faith is that it is placed in the right thing

**many of us don’t believe enough, and don’t pray enough, and don’t hope in miracles*

**yet many of us may put too much stock in them...*

**we need a Biblical view of miracles...*

A Sobering Look at Miracles

- 1) many witnessed the most incredible miracles, and walked away from God

- Israel & Egypt
 - Sampson
 - Gideon
 - Most of the Crowds in Jesus' day
- 2) miracles don't create faith, they confirm faith
 - many think if they see a miracle, then they'll believe
 - "Jews"
 - "So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" John 6:30
 - this is directly after Jesus just fed them, the 5,000!
 - us maybe
 - "God, if you will only do this, I'll trust you"
 - miracles don't create faith, they are created by faith
 - "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" Romans 10:17
- 3) they are temporary
 - that girl died again
 - that woman died
 - those men closed their eyes for good
 - that man shut his mouth in death

**miracles are an incredible gift from the Lord and are still available for us...
and yet there is even more God wants to offer us...*

These Miracles Point to A Greater Miracle

when Jesus said "...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." **he was not only referring to physical sickness, for he goes on to say, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:12-14*

**let's remember...there are deeper needs than our physical ones...*

"The healing of physical suffering is only cosmetic if a sinful heart is not given into the care of the Great Physician" (Wilkins 377)

- **1) Did you know, you were once dead...**
- **this girl lying dead in her bed is a perfect picture of each one of us...**
 - “As for you, **you were dead** in your trespasses and sins” Ephesians 2:1
 - “And you, **who were dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh...” Colossians 2:13
- **When someone becomes a Christian...**
 - we often think it is like they are drowning in their sin and then someone throws them a life raft called Jesus whom they take hold of and are saved
 - yet the Bible says it’s more like we drowned and were at the bottom of the ocean, dead
 - you can not do anything for yourself when you are dead at the bottom of the ocean
 - spiritually, this is a picture of every single human being
 - you can do not a single thing of spiritual worth or value
 - you are completely unable to change your situation
 - completely unable to even cry out to Jesus
 - completely unable to do anything, for you are dead
- **Jesus’ miracle of new life**
 - “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ*—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:4-6, 8
 - **God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses” Colossians 2:13**
 - then it’s like Jesus jumps out of a boat, swims to the bottom of the ocean, and brings you back to life
 - your salvation is more a miracle than Jesus bringing this little girl back to life, for he brought you back to life spiritually!

Application - Jesus & Death

- and do you know how this happened?
 - on the cross, Jesus took your death.
 - He experienced the spiritual death on the cross, so that if you trust in him...you become spiritual alive
 - Stop trying to bring yourself back to life, cry out to him this morning
- friends faith? dead marriages? dead faith?
 - he is able

- nothing is too hard for him, no one is too far gone for him
- don't settle and look for life and healing in other places, hope is in Jesus

This Little Girl - A Picture of All Christians

- not only does this girl represent every Christian's salvation...
- it represents every Christian's end
- for we will all die, and yet, when Jesus comes again...we all will rise
- like this girl, he will take us up, to rise again with him for eternity
- **if there is a death of a Christian that you have been devastated by...know this story is still good news for you...for both you and that person will rise again in the last day**

**furthermore...*

- **2) Did you know your sin made you unclean & stained like this woman?**
 - **our sin is like a stain, it makes us unclean like this woman. our sin is like a disease.**
 - "And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. *All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.*" Mark 7:20-23
 - **we've also been sinned against,**
 - and we carry around our wounds and feel dirty and broken and wounded
 - abused, hurt, broken, even bitter
 - **Did you know what Jesus has done on the cross for you is more incredible than what he did for this woman?**
 - "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God*" 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to *cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" 1 John 1:9
 - "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, *by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*" Titus 3:5
 - *when Jesus said "your faith has made you well", he uses the less common word "sozo" which is the same word for salvation.*

Application - Jesus & Cleansing

- and this happened by Jesus taking your sin on himself
- Jesus is like the ancient scapegoat, who received the sin of an Israelite on his head, and then was sent off into the wilderness, representing our sin being taken away from the camp, and we are finally free of it
 - *when you trust in Jesus for salvation, you are entirely cleaned, restored, washed*
 - your issues you've dealt with your whole life. your wounds you've carried your whole life
 - stop trying to get clean another way
 - stop trying to get healed from your wounds another way
 - you won't find another doctor, you won't find another savior

• 3) Did you know you were blind?

- "In their case the god of this world has *blinded the minds* of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - if you are a Christian and can remember the days before you were...
 - remember how foolish it all seemed?
 - many people, even maybe in this room, know many things about God, about the Bible
 - and yet you are still spiritually blind
 - the Bible isn't wonderful, glorious to you
 - you can't say "your love is better than life itself" about the Lord
- this was the Pharisees!
 - at the end of our texts, in verse 34 - "But the Pharisees said, 'He casts out demons by the prince of demons'.
 - they were blind

**if this is you...*

- your hope isn't to try harder
 - your hope is to have new eyes, the eyes of your heart opened to behold the glory of God
- like those two blind men, Jesus opens our eyes
 - "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image." 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear." Matthew 13:16

Application - Jesus & Blindness

- Jesus opens your eyes because his eyes were closed in death
 - the beauty of christ? the beauty of the bible? seeing situations clearly

- “open my eyes that I might behold...”
- stop looking for beauty in other places
- cry out for God to help you see Him, His Word

**finally...*

• 4) Did you know you were once held captive by Satan?

- “In their case the god of this world has *blinded the minds* of the unbelievers, *to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*” 2 Corinthians 4:4
- spiritual blindness has spiritual roots
 - hear this - you need to be delivered from Satan if you do not believe in Jesus
- And yet, the Schemes of the Enemy are as nothing to Jesus
 - “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

Application - Jesus & Satan

- no problem for Jesus. no one too far gone or too far captive
- stop fearing the one who can only kill the body but not the soul
- fear God, he has delivered you

**we have a very serious sickness, and it's bigger than the ailments in our bodies*

Isaiah 53

- “He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and *with his wounds we are healed*. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:5-6
 - *if you feel discouraged about what Jesus hasn't done for you...know this...*
 - **He did more for you than he did for any of these suffering people in these stories.**
 - **He didn't just let you touch the corner of his garment, he didn't just heal a disease.**
 - **He died on the cross and bore your sins that you could be forgiven, made clean, be rescued from spiritual death, and have your yes opened to see his glory. He delivered you from Satan.**
 - **This is what he has done for you.**
- *if you feel far from God, if God hasn't answer your prayers for healing...know this...*

- *"The theology of the Cross draws our attention to the sheer unreliability of experience as a guide to the presence and activity of God. God is active and present in his world, quite independently of whether we experience him as being so. Experience declared that God was absent from Calvary, only to have its verdict humiliatingly overturned on the third day." (Alister McGrath)*

Now...

- "But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings..."
Malachi 4:2
 - truly he has healing in his wings.
 - cry out to him
- **"son of David, have mercy on me"**
 - physical problems
 - your sin
 - this is the posture of a Christian
 - like David, who knew the love of God, still cried out "have mercy"
 - like the tax collector, who cried out "have mercy on me a sinner"
 - together, let us cry out to God for mercy
- **Come to Jesus, cry out, "Son of David, have mercy on me"**