

So in two weeks I'll be headed out for my last meeting appointment of the year. It is a six lesson weekend set in Humble, TX. And it's kind of a big deal for me. I worshipped there during all my teenage years, and it is where Sommer and I went when we were first married. Steve Fontenot has preached there 100 years and was and still is my mentor. I did meetings there in 2005 and 2010, so it's been a while. It is always hard to go home again, for fear everyone sees a troubled 16 year old up there instead of a – slightly less troubled – 38 year old. But we'll give it all we've got.

When I think of my years at Humble, the first thing that stands out was a particularly challenging HS Bible class. We met in an annex building and the code for getting through the door was a full quotation of **John 20:30-31**. I had no intention of memorizing that, but I was sincerely interested in a girl in that class, so there I was: ***"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."***

I'll say this – it worked. I was probably 15 at the time and I've never forgotten that passage! And I'm glad I learned it. What an incredibly message! Jesus did so many wonderful and miraculous things that are not recorded in the Gospels, but what we have is there so that we can know 2 things:

1) Jesus is Christ, the Son of God 2) If we believe in Him we will have eternal life by His power!

His miracles prove this. They firm up our belief in His greatness and our need to trust Him. In times past, when I've just had one sitting to show someone the greatness of Jesus Authority through miracles, I've always chosen **Luke Chapter 8**. It contains 4 miracles that cover just about everything! -- v1-18 – You are coming off the parable of the sower – **v18 – Why Listen?**

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| 1) v24 – Jesus has power over Nature | 2) v32-33 – Jesus has power over the Spiritual World |
| 3) v43-44 – Jesus has power over Health | 4) 50-56 – Power over Life and Death and the Soul! |

These, found in reliable documents, recorded by reliable witnesses, serve as incredible evidence of Jesus and motivate us to FOLLOW HIM. *Where could I go but to the Lord?!*

I want to help you visualize and internalize this today with TWO miracles from Jesus' Ministry:

The first will reveal the END GAME of His Miracles: the reason proving the power matters.

I. Jesus Heals the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

- a. 2:1-5 – Jesus rewards faith with the greatest miracle of all
- b. 2:6-11 – The healing was just to prove He can forgive sins
- c. 2:12/Matthew 9:8 – “Who has given such authority to men?”

The second is short but engages us on our spiritual journey to receiving Miracle Forgiveness!

II. Jesus Heals the Leper (Matthew 8:1-4)

- a. **A man humbly comes to Jesus** – “a leper came and bowed down before Him”
 - i. Why He Came: The Lord was his only hope. Leprosy was terrible. Others cast you away. You were “contagious” and dangerous. He had nowhere else to go.
 - ii. How He Came: With such a desperate situation comes humility and pleading. He came bowed down and presenting confidence that Jesus was The Answer.

- b. **Jesus is able to cleanse him** – “his leprosy was cleansed”
 - i. Why was He able – He was uniquely LORD! (7:21-22) – Had Jesus not been there or they missed each other by a day - the man would have died a leper.
 - ii. How capable was Christ – Where man could do nothing to help, Jesus completely, with just a touch (Jesus was unafraid to touch a leprous man) totally healed him.
- c. **Jesus is willing to cleanse him** – “Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean.”
 - i. Just because was able didn’t mean that He would heal the man. The man didn’t earn or deserve it. It would be an act of complete GRACE and MERCY.
 - ii. **Matthew 9:35-36** – Compassionate! **Matthew 10:28-30** – Desirous to give aid. Jesus is a soft hearted, loving Lord who seeks to help the hurting.
- d. **A man leaves healed and fired up** – “go, show, present”
 - i. The healing was an act of Grace, but Jesus sent Him to do something afterward. He needed to keep the commitment of Moses to the events following purification.
 - ii. **Leviticus 14:1-32** – 32 Verses of two birds, one slain over running water, one dipped in that one’s blood with running water and cedar wood... man sprinkled 7 times...washed clothes, shaved head, beard and eyebrows, all hair, 8th day take two lambs and go through sacrificial process again. AFTER healing!
 - iii. The man approached destitute, with a humble request... restored, with a humble attitude and a willingness to do what was right.
 - iv. OH, and Mark 1:40-45 – and EXUBERATION!

So why look at this miracle? Well, we’ve talked about how miracles prove who Jesus is and the power He possesses. And we’ve talked about how, primarily, they are to convince you THAT HE CAN CLEANSE you from your sins – His greatest and most important miracle. But this one may even send you home today with a SENSE of HOW that is all supposed to work.

a. You must come to Jesus for healing

- a. Sin is the disease. It is incurable. It alienates. It breeds desperation and pain.
- b. **Luke 18:10-14** – But there will be some who come, humble and begging for mercy.

b. Jesus is uniquely able to cleanse you

- a. **I John 2:1-2** – He has a special connection to and power before the Father in heaven.
- b. **Hebrews 7:24-25** – And He can now save anyone, forever who draws near to Him.

c. Jesus is willing to cleanse you

- a. **Matt. 11:28-30** – He wants us to come. He wants to give us rest.
- b. **Mark 16:15-16** – He didn’t have to offer this – to do this. But He Did!

d. You must go forth with purpose

- a. First, to complete the mission He has laid before you – **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- b. Second, with a jubilee that speaks of Him, tells of Him, announces Him. That man told everyone though Jesus restricted Him, what about us?

Remember Pentecost.

First line of Evidence: 2:22

Conclusion: 2:36

Reaction: 2:37-41

- They were confident that Jesus could forgive their sins because of His miracles!
- That’s an incredibly powerful connection and idea: **miracles prove He can cleanse you!**