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Sermon Notes

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The Supernatural Healing Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 8:1-17

I. The Conquest of Disease

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

A. America Thirsty for the Supernatural

1. Popular culture

Superman

Spiderman

Movies & Television programs attracted to the occult

“Touched by an angel”

2. Constant interest in miracles

3. Growing cults

B. Jesus' Miracles: Genuine Spiritual Power

1. Matthew: lists 10 miracles

- Cleansing a leper
- Healing the centurion's servant
- Healing Peter's mother-in-law
- Casting out demons from the Gadarene demoniacs
- Healing the paralyzed man
- Raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead
- Healing the woman with the flow of blood
- Giving sight to two blind men

- Giving speech to a mute man
2. Consistent pattern: human weakness vs. Jesus' power
 1. Man can't, Jesus can
 2. Vivid picture also of spiritual situation
 3. We MUST HAVE a Savior!!!
- C. The Miracles: Power for a Purpose
1. To mark Jesus as Messiah
 2. To demonstrate Jesus as God
 3. To reverse the curse & restore creation
 4. To demonstrate the grace, mercy, and love of God
 5. To point to spiritual healing... the TRUE WORK Jesus came to do

Matthew 9:6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

II. Jesus Heals a Leper: Healed to Draw Near (vs. 1-4)

When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

A. What is "Leprosy"?

Illus. Paul Brand's work in India... my experiences in Pakistan

1. Hansen's disease
2. Dreaded in that day
3. Flesh corrupted and diseased

4. Vivid physical picture of sin

B. The Spiritual Implications

1. Mosaic restrictions

Leviticus 13:42-44 *But if he has a reddish-white sore on his bald head or forehead, it is an infectious disease breaking out on his head or forehead. 43 The priest is to examine him, and if the swollen sore on his head or forehead is reddish-white like an infectious skin disease, 44 the man is diseased and is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean because of the sore on his head.*

2. Commanded to call “Unclean, unclean!!”

Leviticus 13:45 *"The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'"*

3. Excluded from the assembly... spiritual outcast

Leviticus 13:46 *As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.*

4. So were we in the presence of God before Christ cleansed us

- a. danger was contagion spreading throughout entire camp of Israel
- b. just like sin spreading through entire world... transmitted from person to person
- c. result absolutely repulsive and fatal
- d. so were we as sinners in the presence of a holy God

C. The Humble Request, the Gentle Reply

vs. 2 *A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*

1. Perfect request, made humbly

- a. physical posture reflects humility of heart
- b. “Lord, If you are willing, you are able...”
- c. a spiritual beggar can do nothing but beg for mercy

2. YET willingness already shown by the widespread miracles and by prophecy

a. Jesus had already done many miracles... that's why the man came to ask

Capernaum the site of Jesus' first miracle

b. the prophet Isaiah had already

3. The Gentle, Yet Powerful Reply

**3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"
Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.**

a. touch forbidden by law... healing done BY the touch!!!

Illus. Throwing open a door darkness flees the light; so disease flees Jesus' touch

b. incredible love!

This man probably hasn't been touched in years!!

c. gentle yet powerful words

Christ uses words to recreate the same way God used words to create in the beginning

D. Jesus Revealed and Concealed

1. Jesus' character: gentle, loving, powerful

2. Jesus' mission

3. YET Jesus' command

vs. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Having revealed His glory, He now seeks to conceal His fame

E. Obedience to the Law, Disobedience to Jesus

1. Moses commanded a gift to be offered

Leviticus 14:8-11 The person to be cleansed must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair and bathe with water; then he will be ceremonially clean. After this he may come into the camp, but he must stay outside his tent for seven days. 9 On the seventh day he must shave off all his hair; he must shave his head, his beard, his eyebrows and the

rest of his hair. He must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water, and he will be clean. 10 "On the eighth day he must bring two male lambs and one ewe lamb a year old, each without defect, along with three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and one log of oil. 11 The priest who pronounces him clean shall present both the one to be cleansed and his offerings before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

2. Jesus meticulously obeyed the Law perfectly

Matthew 5:17-19 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

3. Sadly the man refused to obey Jesus

Mark 1:45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

III. Jesus Heals a Gentile: Healed to Feast (vs. 5-13)

But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

- A. Jews and Gentiles in the Time of Jesus

Ephesians 2:14 ...the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility

1. Tremendous hatred... especially on the part of Jews
2. Romans considered a scourge from God

3. No Jew would enter a Roman house
4. Most Romans certainly domineered Jews... despised them as a conquered people
5. Some Gentiles excluded from temple

Deuteronomy 23:3 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

6. Jews had extended this to all Gentiles

B. The Centurion's Faith

1. "God-fearer" with great compassion
 - a. loved his servant enough to humble himself to a Jewish healer
 - b. Luke: loved the Jewish nation enough to build a synagogue
 - c. YET he would not have been permitted to enter the synagogue he built!!
2. Humble posture before Christ

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

Later: considered that he wasn't even worthy to have Jesus under his roof

AMAZING humility

8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof."

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

3. Incredible answer... in a moment

C. Christ's Humble Servanthood

7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

1. Readily accessible and interruptible
2. Even for a Gentile
3. Willing to come even though it wasn't necessary

D. The Structure of the Invisible World

1. The Order of the Roman Army
2. Applying Physical to Spiritual
3. YES!!! There is Delegated Authority in the Heavens
4. American egalitarianism hinders, not helps!!

E. The Worldwide Future of the Kingdom

vs. 10-12 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

1. Our emotional Lord: Christ's astonishment
2. Faith not limited to Israel
3. "I will make you jealous..."
4. God's Worldwide Saving Purpose in Abraham
5. A Magnificent Banquet the Reward for a Magnificent Faith

F. The Healing Word

vs. 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

IV. Jesus Heals a Woman: Healed to Serve (vs. 14-15)

vs. 14-15 When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

A. Peter Had a Mother-in-Law?

1. Roman Catholic dogma: celibacy for priests??
2. Peter's domestic life

3. Christ included... invited

B. Fever Threatens Death

1. No hospitals, rudimentary medicine
2. Fever frequently a precursor to death
3. Great fear!!

C. The Healing Touch

1. Again, Christ's hands reach out to touch
2. Instant healing
3. Fever immediately gone

D. Healed to Serve

vs. 15 ...she got up and began to wait on him.

1. Notice her immediate reaction
2. Strength has come back... strength & time is used to serve God
3. So must we all be healed to serve!!

V. Jesus Heals a Multitude: Healed to Fulfill

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

A. Massive River of Miraculous Power

B. Jesus "Banished Disease from Palestine"

C. Fulfilling Prophecy... Isaiah 53

1. Prophecy given to identify the PERSON of Christ
2. No one else could have fulfilled Isaiah 53

D. Ultimate Fulfillment is Spiritual

1. Prophecy also give to identify the PURPOSE of Christ
2. Spiritual healing

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

NOTE: Some charismatic "faith healing" ministries have sought to use this verse to prove that Jesus came to banish disease and sickness from the world permanently, and that if you have disease now, it means there's sin in your life... especially unbelief.

BUT: "The wages of sin is death", and physical death through all kinds of diseases is still mandated for us by God Himself

Hebrews 9:27 "It is appointed to men to die once, and after that to face judgment."

VI. Application

A. Stand in Awe of Christ's Person

1. Christ's immense compassion and gentleness
2. Christ's perfect holiness
3. Christ's saving intention
4. Christ's infinite power
5. Ultimately: Christ's DEITY... He is GOD in the flesh

B. Understand Christ's Power

1. Spiritual realms in order of power

American egalitarianism will not continue in heaven!

2. Christ ruler over all

3. Nothing is impossible with Him

C. "I am willing... be clean!!"

1. Come to Christ with whatever you need
2. Come humbly, as did these three petitioners
3. Come with faith as did the Centurion
4. Allow Jesus to cleanse you

D. Allow Christ to Take Up Your True Burden

vs. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Illus. Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress: Christian's crushing burden

Sin is devastating... a crushing burden day by day

Fear of judgment, fear of death... alienation from God... commandments shattered, guilt pressing on us like a boulder

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."