

February 27–March 5. Matthew 8; Mark 2–4; Luke 7: “Thy Faith Hath Saved Thee”

Jesus Heals the Sick and Afflicted

Jesus heals a leper in Galilee

Matt 8:1-4

1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Why did do you think Jesus instruct the leper not to tell anyone of this miracle that He performed?

(See thou tell no man)

Dean L. Larsen

"It was not uncommon for him to ask of those who had been the recipients of his marvelous power to keep the matter to themselves and tell no one. Such was the case with the leper whom Jesus healed. 'See thou tell no man' was the Savior's charge in this case. It was almost as though he feared that men would follow him because of his power rather than as a result of having learned his truths and having valued them because they were true." ("Let Your Light So Shine," Ensign, Sept. 1981)

True service does not seek recognition

Thomas S. Monson

"May we look upward as we press forward in the service of our God and our fellowmen. And may we incline an ear toward Galilee, that we might hear perhaps an echo of the Savior's teachings: 'Do not your alms before men, to be seen of them.... Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth' (Matt. 6:1,3). And of our good deeds: 'See thou tell no man' (Matt. 8:4). Our hearts will then be lighter, our lives brighter, and our souls richer.

"Loving service anonymously given may be unknown to man—but the gift and the giver are known to God." (CR, April 1983)

Note that the priest would receive a testimony of the power of God to heal but Jesus would remain anonymous.

Jesus heals the centurion's servant

Matt 8:5-13

5 ¶ And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.
7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.
8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.
9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.
10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.
12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

JST 8:9

And when they that followed him heard this, they marveled. And when Jesus heard this, he said unto them that followed...

What can we learn from this centurion about demonstrating true faith in Christ?

Neil L. Andersen

“The Savior perceived the strength or weakness in the faith of those around Him. To one, He said approvingly, ‘Great is thy faith.’ He lamented to another, ‘O ye of little faith.’ He questioned others, ‘Where is your faith?’ And Jesus distinguished yet another with, ‘[In all Israel] I have not found so great faith.’

“I ask myself, ‘How does the Savior see my faith?’ And tonight I ask you, ‘How does the Savior see your faith?’...

“Faith in Jesus Christ is a gift from heaven that comes as we choose to believe and as we seek it and hold on to it. Your faith is either growing stronger or becoming weaker. Faith is a principle of power, important not only in this life but also in our progression beyond the veil. By the grace of Christ, we will one day be saved through faith on His name. The future of your faith is not by chance, but by choice.” (CR, Oct. 2015)

What do you think that Jesus is teaching the Jews when He tells them that many “from the east and west” will inherit the Kingdom “but the children of the kingdom shall be cast out”?

Mark E. Petersen

"Unfaithful descendants of Abraham will be cast out regardless of their blood line, and that some from the east and west of non-Abrahamic lineage will be taken into the kingdom of heaven to dwell there with Abraham if they will obey.

"So [Gentiles] need not worry. If they will be faithful to the teachings of Christ, they can and will go with Abraham into the kingdom of heaven....

"Obedience is the thing! God, who is no respecter of persons, offers salvation to all who will accept it on terms of true compliance with the commandments, regardless of race." (Abraham: Friend of God, pg. 110)

Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and many others

Matt 8:14-17

14 ¶ And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

16 ¶ When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

In what way has Jesus "[taken] our infirmities, and [borne] our sicknesses"?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Can we, even in the depths of disease, tell Him anything at all about suffering? In ways we cannot comprehend, our sicknesses and infirmities were borne by Him even before these were borne by us.... We have never been, nor will we be, in depths such as He has known. Thus His atonement made His empathy and His capacity to succor us perfect, for which we can be everlastingly grateful as He tutors us in our trials." (CR, Oct. 1981)

Jesus heals a man possessed by a legion of devils

Matt 8:28-34

28 ¶ And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

30 And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the

herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

33 And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

34 And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

Note that the devils, in their own way, bore witness of Christ

Bruce R. McConkie

"Our Lord's true identity is known to unclean spirits. Mortal men may profess not to know of his divinity, but there is no doubt in the minds of the devils in hell. They remember him from their pre-existent association. They know he was foreordained to be the Redeemer, that he was born into the world as the literal offspring of the Father, and that their course in opposing him is one in open rebellion against Deity." (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:314)

What do you think the devils meant by “art thou come hither to torment us before the time”?

Joseph Smith

"It would seem also, that wicked spirits have their bounds, limits, and laws by which they are governed or controlled, and know their future destiny; hence, those that were in the maniac said to our Savior, 'Art thou come to torment us before the time.'... It is very evident that they possess a power that none but those who have the Priesthood can control." (TPJS, pg. 208)

Why do you think the devils asked to “go away into the herd of swine”?

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

“I have always thought that indicated very, very clearly how valuable an earthly body is,—that they were willing in order to have possession, apparently even for the moment, of a body, to go into the body of a swine.” (CR, Oct 1956)

Why do you think the people were afraid and asked Jesus to depart?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Why did the whole city beseech Jesus to depart from their region? A dramatic miracle had come to their personal knowledge, and it created fear rather than faith in the hearts of the people. Why? Some few, perhaps, were fearful and angry because of the loss of their property. But the real reason was far more basic. These people, worldly and carnal by nature, actually preferred their way of life to that which they would have been obligated to pursue, had they accepted the gospel.... When they desire and love darkness rather than light, neither miracles nor any thing else is sufficient to convert

their benighted souls. Rather they rebel against the truth, reject the prophets, and pray Jesus ‘to depart out of their coasts.’” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:313)

Jesus heals a man sick of the palsy

Mark 2:1-5

1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Verse 5 states that “Jesus saw *their* faith.”

Who's faith was involved in bringing about this miracle?

(When Jesus saw their faith – the sick man and those who helped him)

How did they demonstrate their faith?

James W. McConkie III

“[Each of the four did] take a corner of their friend’s mat or bed and begin carrying him... They turn the last corner only to find that the crowd... of people gathered to listen is so great that getting to Jesus is impossible. With love and faith, the four do not give up....

With that telling of in mind, several important truths become clear about Jesus as the Christ. First, when we try to help someone we love come unto Christ, we can do so with confidence that He has the capacity to lift the burden of sin and to forgive. Second, when we bring physical, emotional, or other illnesses to Christ, we can do so knowing He has the power to heal and comfort. Third, when we make effort like the four to bring others to Christ, we can do so with certainty that He sees our true intentions and will appropriately honor them.” (CR, Oct. 2022)

What do we learn about serving others from this example?

Mark 2:6-12

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?
9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?
10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)
11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.
12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

How does Christ prove he has “power on earth to forgive sins”?

(He uses His power to heal to prove that He has the power to forgive sins)

Robert J. Matthews

"Jesus could have told the palsied man that his sins were forgiven, and no observer would have been able to prove or disprove whether it actually was so. But when he commanded a sick man to rise and walk, the validity of his power was immediately able to be tested. Hence in a hostile situation it is easier to say that sins are forgiven. But so that those present would know that he had power to do both, Jesus used the healing of the body as evidence of his power to forgive sins." (Behold the Messiah, pg. 137)

Craig A. Cardon

“The Savior knew that many people followed Him because of His mighty miracles. Already He had turned water to wine, cast out unclean spirits, and healed the nobleman’s son, a leper, Peter’s mother-in-law, and many others.

“But with this paralyzed man, the Lord chose to give evidence to both disciple and detractor of His unique role as Savior of the world. Hearing the Savior’s words, the scribes and Pharisees had begun to reason among themselves, ignorantly speaking of blasphemy while concluding that only God can forgive sin....

“By this miraculous physical healing, the Savior confirmed to all of us this infinitely more powerful spiritual truth: the Son of Man forgives sins!” (CR, April, 2013)

Jesus raises a widow's son from the dead

Luke 7:11-17

11 ¶ And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the

city was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judæa, and throughout all the region round about.

The mother didn't ask for a miracle from Jesus so what prompted Him to raise her son from the dead?

(when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her)

Thomas S. Monson

"Though engaged in His majestic ministry, He embraced the opportunity to lift burdens, provide hope, mend bodies, and restore life.

"Few accounts of the Master's ministry touch me more than His example of compassion shown to the grieving widow at Nain....

"What power, what tenderness, what compassion did our Master thus demonstrate! We, too, can bless if we will but follow His noble example. Opportunities are everywhere. Needed are eyes to see the pitiable plight and ears to hear the silent pleadings of a broken heart. Yes, and a soul filled with compassion, that we might communicate not only eye to eye or voice to ear but, in the majestic style of the Savior, even heart to heart." (CR, Oct. 1993)

Jesus heals a woman of her sins and uses a parable to teach the presumptuous Pharisee

Luke 7:36-50

36 ¶ And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.
44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.
45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.
48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Why do you think the woman showed so much more love for Jesus than did Simon the Pharisee?

She knew she need forgiveness
Simon didn't recognize how much he needed Jesus because he considered himself to be righteous

Dieter F. Uchtdorf
"Which of these two people are we most like?"

"Are we like Simon? Are we confident and comfortable in our good deeds, trusting in our own righteousness? Are we perhaps a little impatient with those who are not living up to our standards? Are we on autopilot, going through the motions, attending our meetings, yawning through Gospel Doctrine class, and perhaps checking our cell phones during sacrament service?"

"Or are we like this woman, who thought she was completely and hopelessly lost because of sin? Do we understand our indebtedness to Heavenly Father and plead with all our souls for the grace of God?" (CR, April 2015)

Jesus calms the storm at sea

Mark 4:37-41

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

While those in the ship feared for their lives what was Christ doing?

(he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow)

Why shouldn't those in the ship been afraid?

He has power over the elements
(even the wind and the sea obey him)

Eliza Tanner

"When a literal or figurative storm threatens to overwhelm me, I remember a certain storm-tossed sea and a band of frightened disciples awakening the Master. As they watched Christ calm the raging sea, the early disciples marveled, saying, 'What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him' (Matt. 8:27). The elements are indeed subject to Christ, as we must be. And I know that in my own life, if I am grounded on the foundation that is Christ, he alone has the power to say 'Peace, be still,' and my troubled way will be made calm." ("Safe from the Storms," Ensign, Sept. 1995)