

TITLE: THE SMALL CHALLENGES that Jesus wants to heal

Matt. 8:14 When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. ¹⁶ When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."

IN MATTHEW'S MIRACLE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS

FIRST A LEPER, Then A CENTURION'S SERVANT and now A FEVER??

Matt. 8:14 When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.

QUESTION: What stands out MOST about this miracle?

1. It's Ordinary

- Jesus goes into a house of one of His disciples (Peter)
- He notices suffering that isn't public
- He cares about **one person in a room**
- Jesus healed her of her fever and the woman "SERVED" JESUS

Application:

We often believe when it comes to miracles:

- "God shows up at conferences"
- "OR God moves in BIG moments"
- "OR God works when everything is dramatic for ALL TO SEE"

But Matthew is teaching his Jewish audience that:

Jesus walks into kitchens, bedrooms, and the quiet suffering you face.

Because Jesus cares about the LITTLE ailments that nobody else sees.

He cares about YOUR hidden anxiety OR YOUR silent depression OR the chronic illness no one asks about... **AND JESUS WAN'TS TO HEAL YOU**

FROM CHRISTIAN APATHY! 😊 (Believer/Disciple over next TWO weeks)

HERE'S OUR Challenge:

POINT 1. Have you ever quietly assumed: “That whatever *SMALL* challenge YOU are facing, doesn't matter enough for Jesus”?

It could be something around your home, or something with a relationship or some simple little private struggle.....

But I believe, this is exactly what Matthew wants you to know about Jesus miracles...He has a little miracle for you if you ask Him...AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT....EVEN IF OTHERS ASK ON YOUR BEHALF OR YOU WERE TO ASK, ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.....

James 5:16 *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.***

POINT 1: There is **NOTHING** that is too small in prayer to ask Jesus for!

LOOK AT MARK'S ACCOUNT OF THE SAME MIRACLE

Mark 1:29 *And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; **and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her.** ³¹ And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, **and she waited on them.***

Luke 4:38 *Then He got up and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, **and they asked Him to help her.** ³⁹ And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; **and she immediately got up and waited on them.***

SO HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR PRAYER TO JESUS AND/OR YOUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS....I'd say VERY IMPORTANT

James 4:2b *... You do not have because you do not ask.*

POINT 2. Jesus Heals for a Purpose

¹⁵ *He touched her hand, and the fever left her; **and she got up and waited on Him. (THEM) IN MARK AND LUKE'S ACCOUNT***

DON'T MISS THIS: "Jesus touched HER HAND" as if to say, I've got a plan for you...I want you to serve Me...In Other Words...Healing SHOULD lead You and I to **serve CHRIST BY SERVING OTHERS!**

QUESTION 😊: HOW LONG DID PETER'S MOM HAVE TO REST FROM HER FEVER AFTER JESUS TOUCHED HER FOR THE SERVING TO BEGIN?

LET ME THINK... "She rested for weeks"

OR MAYBE JESUS TOLD HER TO "Take it easy now....forever"

POINT: So how long to you have to be a Christian to serve others? 😊

Your Salvation is..Immediate transformation from Jesus, OR Immediate healing from your life of sin MEANS a NEW, IMMEDIATE PURPOSE!

THOSE WHO ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR HEALING FROM SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH SHOULD BE GRATEFUL SERVANTS OF JESUS!

THIS IS THE MARK OF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS!!!!...Teaching them to obey ALL that I have commanded you! Matthew 28

FIRST Baptism...SECOND Obedience to Love Jesus and Love Others

Application:

Most believers want healing from sin...OR _____ *but are NOT interested in thanking Jesus when they get it 😊!*

SO We pray: "Jesus Heal me" "Jesus Fix me" "Jesus Help me"

And then when He does...

We sometimes hesitate to: Serve, Commit, Show up, Worship, or even thank Him....NOW DON'T WORRY...THAT'S NONE OF YOU 😊

I can't tell you how many times I've asked Jesus for something and then FORGOT to thank Him for the answered prayer 😊

WHERE DO I BEGIN TO SERVE?

1. Pray about it...Ask God
2. Where do you want to serve as the Holy Spirit will lead you
3. Start a ministry, Join a ministry
4. Look for opportunities
5. Ask ANY of our pastors where others need help 😊

Matthew 8:16 evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.”

POINT 3. The healing of a simple fever and power over Satan’s demons was symbolic BY MATTHEW for our everyday sin and the POWER over Satan to keep Jesus from building His Church on Earth with committed Disciples who would follow after Jesus!

THE HEALING OF A FEVER ALSO, carries a DEEPER Meaning:

Sin is like a fever:

- It slowly drains away your strength, while it distorts mental clarity. It weakens your physical body. IT IS USUALLY THE SYMPTOM OF SOME GREATER ILLNESS...And left alone or untreated... it has the ability to consume a life

Application:

You and I, often try to “manage” our sin LIKE a fever!!!

“I’ll just ignore this sin” OR “I’ll just manage my sin habit”...AFTER ALL, “It’s really NOT that serious”...**BUT ALL SIN IS FATAL!!!**

NOTE: Jesus didn’t give Peter’s mom a couple of Tylenol to manage her fever... **He removed it.**

IN THE SAME WAY JESUS DOESN’T MANAGE OUR SIN, HE REMOVES IT!!!

SO...HERE'S A PERSONAL Challenge for each of us:

YOU AND I ARE "NEW" CREATURES IN CHRIST SO WHY PUT UP WITH ANY SIN HABIT IN OUR LIFE???

IN OTHER WORDS: What "fever" might YOU be *tolerating* that Jesus wants to touch?

Bitterness, Lust, Pride, Spiritual apathy, Lying, Critical spirit, Nastiness?

You don't need better excuses!!!!...**You need JESUS TOUCH to HEAL YOU SO YOU CAN GET BACK IN THE FIGHT as a warrior disciple**

POINT 4. NOW HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS...Jesus Carries What We Cannot (v.16–17)

*16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. 17 **This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."***

Matthew now zooms out for HIS BIG IDEA.

This isn't just one healing...This is a **pattern of miracles-(Prophecy)**

This is the turning point of the passage

Jesus is more than a HEALER, MORE than a MIRACLE WORKER...*Jesus is our substitute who took ALL of our sickness, ALL disease and MOST IMPORTANTLY ALL OF OUR SIN AND CARRIED IT TO A CROSS FOR YOU AND I....***JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE!**

AND DON'T MISS THIS...

It's too easy to treat Jesus like:

- A helper
- OR A fixer
- OR A life improver...BUT HE IS SO MUCH MORE...HE IS OUR SAVIOR AND HE IS OUR "CHANGE AGENT"!

LET'S NOT FORGET, YOU AND I AS BELIEVERS ARE NEW CREATURES!

2Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

The passage Matthew quotes in ISAIAH is God telling us that Jesus:

Came to **CARRY** what you cannot CARRY

Came to **BEAR** what you cannot BEAR

Came to **PAY** what you cannot PAY

Came to **CURE** what you cannot CURE

Came to **DO FOR YOU** what you could not **DO FOR YOURSELF...**

REMOVE THE PENALTY OF YOUR SIN BEFORE A HOLY GOD!

WRITTEN OVER 700 YRS BEFORE CRUXIFIXION AND BIRTH OF JESUS

Is. 53:1 Who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For He (JESUS grew up before Him like a tender shoot,

And like a root out of parched ground;

He has no stately form or majesty

That we should look upon Him,

Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

³ He was despised and forsaken of men,

A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

And like one from whom men hide their face

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Is. 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore,

And our sorrows He carried;

Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ **But He was pierced through for our transgressions,**

He was crushed for our iniquities;

The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,

And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ **All of us like sheep have gone astray,**

**Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.**

Is. 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
**Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.**

8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off out of the land of the living
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?
9 His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Is. 53:10 But the Lord was pleased
To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief;
If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering,
He will see *His* offspring,
He will prolong *His* days,
And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

11 As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see *it and* be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the booty with the strong;
Because He poured out Himself to death,
And was numbered with the transgressors;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors.