

MIRACLES OF HEALING - THE CALMING OF THE SEA

BIBLE TEXT : John 4:46-54; Mark 2:1-12; Matthew 8:1-27

LESSON 32 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 4:46-54

4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told *him*, saying, Thy son liveth.

52 Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

54 This *is* again the second miracle *that* Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

Mark 2:1-12

2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2 And straightway many were

Bible References:

I The Great Physician and the Nobleman of Capernaum

1 Jesus, is asked to heal the son of a nobleman of Capernaum, John 4:46, 47;

John 2:1-11

2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare *it*.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

2 Jesus challenges the nobleman's faith and sincerity, John 4:48;

John 2:18-22

2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Matthew 12:38-42

12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it:

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.

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.

Matthew 8:1-27

8:1 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

for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Mark 8:11

And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

3 The nobleman shows that he is not a sign-seeker, but a sincere petitioner, John 4:49, 50

4 The son is healed — at the hour the nobleman believed, John 4:51-54;

John 11:40

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Matthew 17:20

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Mark 9:23

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

II The Great Physician and the Sick of the Palsy

1 Four men show their faith by their persistence in reaching Jesus, Mark 2:1-4;

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Genesis 32:26

And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Matthew 15:21-28

15:21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

James 5:16-18

5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

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.

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 shouldst 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.

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

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

2 The palsied man's sins are forgiven — an indication that he, too, had faith, Mark 2:5;

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

James 1:6-7

1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

3 Jesus heals the sick man as an evidence of His power to forgive sin, Mark 2:6-12

1 Kings 18:36-39

18:36 And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that* I *am* thy servant, and *that* I have done all these things at thy word.

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.

John 20:27

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

III The Great Physician and the Leper and Other Afflicted Ones

1 The leper is healed immediately by one touch of Jesus' hand, Matthew 8:1-4;

John 6:37

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Leviticus 14:1-32

14:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest:

3 And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, *if* the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper;

4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive *and* clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds

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.

18 Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

19 And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

25 And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

be killed in an earthen vessel over running water:

6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird *that was* killed over the running water:

7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.

8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

9 But it shall be on the seventh day, that he shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.

10 And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour *for* a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.

11 And the priest that maketh *him* clean shall present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

12 And the priest shall take one he lamb, and offer him for a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them *for* a wave offering before the LORD:

13 And he shall slay the lamb in the place where he shall kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the holy place: for as the sin offering *is* the priest's, *so is* the trespass offering: *it is* most holy:

14 And the priest shall take *some* of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put *it* upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

15 And the priest shall take *some* of the log of oil, and pour *it* into the palm of his own left hand:

16 And the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that *is* in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD:

17 And of the rest of the oil that *is* in his hand shall the priest put upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot, upon the blood of the trespass offering:

18 And the remnant of the oil that *is* in the priest's hand he shall pour upon the head of him that is to be cleansed: and the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD.

19 And the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed from his uncleanness; and afterward he shall kill the burnt offering:

20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the meat offering upon the altar: and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

21 And if he *be* poor, and cannot get so much; then he shall take one lamb *for* a trespass offering to be waved, to make an atonement for him, and one tenth deal of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering, and a log of oil;

22 And two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, such as he is able to get; and the one shall be a sin offering, and the other a burnt offering.

23 And he shall bring them on the eighth day for his cleansing unto the priest, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, before the LORD.

24 And the priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering, and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them *for* a wave offering before the LORD:

25 And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take *some* of the blood of the trespass offering, and put *it* upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

26 And the priest shall pour of the oil into the palm of his own left hand:

27 And the priest shall sprinkle with his right finger *some* of the oil that *is* in his left hand seven times before the LORD:

28 And the priest shall put of the oil that *is* in his hand upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot, upon the place of the blood of the trespass offering:

29 And the rest of the oil that *is* in the priest's hand he shall put upon the head of him that is to be cleansed, to make an atonement for him before the LORD.

30 And he shall offer the one of the turtledoves, or of the young pigeons, such as he can get;

31 *Even* such as he is able to get, the one *for* a sin offering, and the other *for* a burnt offering, with the meat offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed before the LORD.

32 This *is* the law *of him* in whom *is* the plague of leprosy, whose hand is not able to get *that which pertaineth* to his cleansing.

2 The centurion appeals for his servant, showing faith, humility, and reverence, Matthew 8:5-9;

Luke 7:1-8

7:1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

3 Jesus commends the centurion, rebuking the Jews, Matthew 8:10-12;

Luke 24:25)

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Malachi 1:11

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense *shall be* offered

unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name *shall be* great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 59:19

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

4 The servant is healed, Matthew 8:13;

Matthew 9:29

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

5 Peter's mother-in-law is healed by Jesus, Matthew 8:14, 15;

Luke 4:38-39

4:38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

6 Scriptural authority that healing for our bodies is in the Atonement, Matthew 8:16, 17;

Isaiah 53:5

But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Exodus 15:26

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

1 Peter 2:21-24

2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

IV Jesus, the Master of Wind and Wave

1 Using current examples, Jesus teaches loyalty to God's cause, Matthew 8:18-22;

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Matthew 6:33-34

6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his

righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

2 The ship in which they are sailing is almost engulfed by the heavy seas, Matthew 8:23, 24;

Mark 4:37

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

3 The frightened disciples are rebuked for their unbelief, Matthew 8:25, 26;

Mark 4:38-40

4:38 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?

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

4 Jesus stills the tempest, Matthew 8:26, 27;

Matthew 14:32

And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Psalms 89:9

Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

Psalms 107:29

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Mark 4:39-41

4:39 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.

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?

Notes:

Jesus, the Great Physician, never lost a case that was brought to Him, no matter what the disease was. His heart was touched by human sin, distress, and pain — and not in vain, for He was able to make all who had faith in Him every whit whole. How glad we are that this was so!

Following His baptism in the river Jordan, and His subsequent temptation, Jesus made a trip to Cana in Galilee where He performed His first miracle, changing water into wine. He then went to the city of Capernaum, which was by the Sea of Galilee. His disciples, His mother, and His brethren were with Him on this journey; but He did not stay long in Capernaum because it was time for the Passover in Jerusalem when every male was required to present himself before the Lord. The trip to Jerusalem was quite long, and as far as we know He took the usual route that followed the Jordan river.

During His stay in Jerusalem Jesus performed miracles and many believed in Him, Nicodemus being among those who inquired about the way of eternal life. Jesus then made a tour around Judea, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, after which He turned again toward Galilee and to the common folk who always welcomed Him in the days of His ministry. We have already seen that this trip took Him through Samaria; and we remember well the story of the revival there, brought about by His conversation with the woman at the well of Sychar. This lesson deals with events on this trip into Galilee, after His meeting with the woman at the well.

The first incident we have record of concerns a nobleman of Capernaum. He had heard about Jesus, probably because of the changing of the water into wine at Cana, and he wanted Jesus to heal his sick son. Jesus put forth a test to see if the nobleman was sincere in his faith, or if he was merely seeking a sign, or if he, like many of the Jews, was wanting to see a demonstration of supernatural power — for curiosity's sake. But Jesus saw

the faith and earnestness of this troubled father and spoke a few words of assurance that helped him to believe. The son was healed at the precise hour that the nobleman believed!

Jesus had never seen the boy, but the Spirit of God knew just who and where he was and, at the word of Christ, the child was healed instantly — not gradually, as is usually the case in a recovery from a fever, but suddenly and completely. It is no wonder that his recovery made a profound impression upon the nobleman and all his house. *We* are told that they all believed.

Such a miracle cannot be explained away in the manner that men attempt to dispose of the supernatural workings of God. They say that healings are the result of mental processes and that the hypnotic influence of a strong personality over the neurotic subject plays a strong part in the recovery. But we see that no such thing would have taken place here, since Jesus was far away and made no personal contact with the ailing boy. It was a miracle performed directly by the Spirit of God, through the merits Of the Blood of Christ which was to be shed on the Cross of Calvary.

Jesus never performed miracles to win popularity, or to do something spectacular for publicity. His whole work and ministry were along entirely different lines from those that govern ordinary worldly activities. He made Himself of no reputation and came as a servant, altogether in mercy and love, and not for personal gain. So, when the doubting Jews came asking for a sign — a demonstration — from Him, He rebuked them for their unbelief and for the fact that they did not accept the signs God had already given. A sign or miracle *is* never missing where it is needed to convince an honest person of the power of God or of the truth of His Word, but it is not given merely to satisfy the curiosity of a skeptic.

Jesus' next contact was with a man who was a paralytic. The good news that Jesus was in the city traveled fast and soon the house was filled with people eager to see and hear Him. This man had four relatives or friends who had great faith in Jesus. Being unable to get in through the crowd to where Jesus was, with their helpless charge, they took him up on the roof, broke it open, and lowered him down into the middle of the crowd so Jesus could see him.

Jesus saw the faith of the four men and acted immediately. But His words were different from what they expected. He did not even mention the poor man's physical condition but went right to the seat of his trouble — his sinful heart. In tenderness Jesus spoke the words that every repentant sinner hears when he prays in sincerity. "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" brought reasonings to the hearts of the scribes who were there. "Who can forgive sins but God only?" was the query they made to one another; but Jesus read their thoughts and knew the condition of their unbelieving hearts.

Men of Bible times were no different from men of today. Then, as now, the unbeliever and rationalist must do one thing before they can logically deny the Word of God or discount God's plan for our salvation. He must, first of all, reduce Christ to a mere man and strip Him of His divinity. And we find these scribes doing just that thing. To them, Jesus was not the Son of God; He was not the One sent from Heaven. He was, to them, just a man — a teacher, a master — and entitled to no more reverence or honor than any other teacher or public figure of their day. To acknowledge that Jesus was the Son of God would obligate them to believe and follow Him, which they did not want to do.

Having no faith to believe that which they could not see, they doubted that the man's sins were forgiven when Jesus spoke. Since a miracle of healing was, to them, the most outstanding thing that Jesus could do— because it could be seen by their faithless, unbelieving eyes — Jesus commanded the man to get up, take his bed and go to his house. The man who had been dependent upon others for everything went in his own strength and vitality at the word of Jesus. His sins were forgiven, his body healed, and sufficient evidence was given to convince any honest heart of the fact that Jesus was the Christ — their long-looked-for Messiah.

All the incidents recorded in the text of our lesson are similar in one thing, even though they are as varied as any accounts of different people can be. That common quality is faith. The leper said, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean," and demonstrated his faith in the power of the Son of God to heal and cleanse. The centurion revealed his faith — a faith so great that its equal was not found in Israel. Peter's mother-in-law felt a confidence

in her heart that a touch of that Hand would bring relief to her burning fever. The leper was healed! The servant of the centurion was healed! Peter's mother-in-law was healed! Many others came with their sick and devil-possessed — and He healed them all!

Healing is a doctrine that is attacked by all the forces of hell in these last days. If Satan can successfully raise a doubt in a person's heart about divine healing he is causing that person to call in question the real issue — the divinity of Jesus. But healing is provided for the child of God, in the Atonement. Some say that (**Isaiah 53:5** *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed*); refers to healing for spiritual ills and does not apply to the physical realm at all. But we see in our lesson that Jesus healed physical illnesses, and cured the mentally deranged, that this prophecy concerning Jesus' sufferings might be completely fulfilled. We have the inspired Word of God back of us when we say that healing is in the Atonement. This one verse in Isaiah, quoted in (**Matthew 8:17** *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*), is enough to settle forever the fact that the child of God has the right and privilege to trust God for the healing of his body. To fail to trust God in times of sickness means that we are doing what the scribes did: dishonoring Jesus and limiting His power, reducing Him to the level of a man. But we know that He is the Son of God, the Creator of the world, the great Savior of mankind, and the Healer of all our afflictions.

Jesus demonstrated His divinity in more ways than in the healing of the sick. He showed that He had power to forgive sin, as we have seen in the case of the sick of the palsy; and in addition He showed that He had power over the forces of nature, that He was supreme over the strength of the elements, too. The cry of the frightened disciples: "Lord, save us: we perish," brought His answering "Peace, be still." The fury of the storm was instantly abated and there was a great calm.

How slow we are to trust Him! How great are His mercies to us in every need of our lives! The stormy seas of our troubled lives can be stilled by just a word from the Master of wind and wave. The storms of adversity, trial, temptation, doubt, and difficulty will all be quieted if we call to Him, Who can, by a word, bring a great calm to our lives.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is Jesus called the Great Physician?
- 2 How did Jesus challenge the faith and sincerity of the nobleman of Capernaum?
- 3 When was the son of the nobleman healed?
- 4 What is necessary on our part, in order that we may be healed?
- 5 Which is the most important to Jesus, the forgiveness of sins or the healing of the body?
- 6 How did Jesus demonstrate that **He** had the authority and power to forgive sins?
- 7 What did Jesus do when He healed the leper? What did He tell the leper to do?
- 8 What qualities did the centurion of Capernaum exhibit that entitled him to consideration by Jesus?
- 9 What authority do we have for saying that healing is for every child of God?
- 10 Quote Isaiah 53:5.