

# The Gospel of the Kingdom Pt 19

## The Kingdom Power of Jesus.

Jesu has shown Himself as the Messiah through the authoritative teaching of His message. Now He proceeds to show Himself as the Messiah through the performance of many miracles, demonstrating that the Kingdom of God truly has arrived and the Old Testament prophecies are being fulfilled.

His ministry is to the marginalized, to the sick and the hurting.

In the Vineyard we believe that we are a people of the Kingdom. We believe in the here and the not yet of the Kingdom, but God is raising up a generation that wants to lean-in more into the here of the Kingdom. Don't get me wrong, we're never going to be a word-of-faith movement that believes that everyone we pray for has to be healed or else there is sin or a lack of faith. We believe that God is sovereign and sometimes He heals and sometimes He doesn't. However, we do believe that God wants to heal, and He expects us to pray for the sick, believing He wants to heal them.

As we study these miracles of Jesus, we need to know that they were just an aspect of His ministry and did not represent the principal goal of His mission. They were evidences which reinforced that His message came from God.

### 1. Healing the Leper

The Old Testament provided specific guidelines for dealing with people with leprosy and other skin diseases which were considered contagious. They are to be brought to the priest who will then examine them as if they are found to have leprosy, then are deemed unclean. Therefore, they lived in colonies on the outskirts of town to avoid contact with healthy people because contact with them would make them unclean. There was also a stigma attached to leprosy which suggested that they had leprosy as a result of sin.

Therefore, the leper really took a risk to come and beg Jesus to heal him, because if he accidentally touched someone, he would make them unclean, and it was a whole ordeal to become ceremonially clean again.

#### ***Matt 8***

***1 When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. 2 And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." 3 And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. 4 And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them."***

Jesus doesn't even flinch, He touches the man, and immediately commands his disease to be gone and the man is healed.

Why does he tell the man not to say anything to anyone? While it is still early in the ministry of Jesus, we read back in chapter 4 that His fame grew because He was healing various diseases and casting out demons. In the other Gospels He tells people to keep their healing quiet, because it is early in His ministry,

and He doesn't want to draw the attention of the priests. But now, this is after the Sermon on the Mount which is His coming out discourse and He is no longer a secret limited to the disciples.

The real reason He says this is for the man's sake. The book of Leviticus has clear guidelines of who are former leper is to present himself to the priest for examination so that he can be declared clean. The man's word and his clear skin would not have been enough without the priest proclaiming him clean.

If Jesus is our model, then when people get healed, we shouldn't tell them to name it and claim and stop treatment, we should tell them to go to the Doctor to confirm the healing. I've experienced some cases where in the emotion of the moment they believed they were healed when they were not. In those cases, stopping the treatment would have done enormous damage. Better to have a doctor confirm the healing, both for the person healed and as a witness to the Doctor. Have you ever known someone who took holistic alternative treatment and thought they were getting better, and all the while people around them are saying that the healing is all in their head? Again, confirmation by a doctor becomes a witness to those who don't believe.

## 2. Healing the Centurion's Servant

***5 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." 7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."***

While we never want to shame anyone by telling them they didn't get healed because of their lack of faith, it is clear in the Scriptures how important faith is for the performing of miracles.

Here is a Roman Centurion who is in command of one hundred battle tested soldiers that most likely are Germanic in origin. It is clear through many of the documents that were sent back to Rome that both Pilate and other Romans were witnesses to Jesus' ministry. Maybe this Centurion had been assigned to observe Jesus because he drew a huge crowd. They wanted to make sure He wasn't a zealot who was going to cause an uprising against Rome which could land Pilate in hot water with Caesar.

Nevertheless, this Centurion had observed Jesus and seen the miraculous healing He had performed. While this man was part of an occupying army and a battle-scarred soldier, it is clear that He is good man who cares for those under him, soldiers and servants alike. Again, as a pagan, a non-Jew, he takes a risk by approaching Jesus and asking Him to heal his servant.

Jesus agrees to go with him to heal his servant. But at that moment, although he is a Centurion, a high-ranking Roman office, he does not deem himself worthy of having Jesus come into his home. With a humility that acknowledges Jesus' ranking and authority, he defers to Jesus and says to Him, "**only say the word, and my servant will be healed**".

***10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the***

***sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.***

Here Jesus is opening the door for the Gospel to be preached and embraced by the Gentiles, while the Jewish establishment rejects Him and calls for His crucifixion.

As a result of the Centurion's faith, his servant is healed, sight unseen.

Here is a non-Jew who through his actions acknowledges that Christ has the power and authority to heal his servant, while the priests, rabbis, Pharisees and Sadducees: all the religious leaders accuse Him of heresy.

The Centurion acknowledges the authority of Jesus.

Wimber used to say that while we may have authority over others, all of us are also under authority. I may be the Senior Pastor of this church, but even I have a Board and a leadership team that I report to, in addition to an area leader and a regional leader.

The very first word out of the Centurion's mouth when he comes to ask for healing is, "Lord". He acknowledges Jesus as being higher than himself.

### **3. Healing the Sick and Delivering the Oppressed**

***14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."***

***Isa 53:4***

***Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.***

If you've watched the chosen, then you know that Peter was married, while the Scriptures never mention her directly, we can imply this by the fact that in this passage he went to his mother-in-law's house. She was suffering from a fever, which some surmise was caused by malaria which was prevalent in the region.

Jesus comes in and never even says a word. Both here and in Mark it says that He took her by the hand, helped her to stand up and was immediately healed.

If Jesus is our model, then we only have to look through the pages of the four Gospels to find out that He healed in many different ways. There wasn't a magic formula or a process that He used. He merely obeyed the Father. Each circumstance was different, and His healing methodology differed as He was led by the Spirit.

As the Church we are to continue the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ through healing and deliverance. We are to pray the prayer of faith, believing that God will and wants to heal through us, His disciples, His Church.

Jesus knew who He was. He knew His identity and as a result walked in authority.

### **Conclusion**

Do you know who you are in Christ?

Do you know your true identity?

Do you know God's plan for your life?

Do you know the authority that you have in Christ?

The enemy loves to lie to us and disqualify us. He tells us that we're not on par with the Apostles or Jesus and thus we can't heal anyone. He tells us that our lives aren't good enough to deserve to pray for anyone. He uses past disappointments to undermine our faith.

He tells us that our past shapes who we are, and who we are isn't good enough.