

**Monday      Week 37      Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Ministry**

Bible Reading: Matthew 4:23-25

Q. 145 What kinds of people did Jesus heal?

A. Jesus healed the sick and those that were possessed with devils.

In 1942 during World War II a very terrible thing happened. The Japanese captured 75,000 Americans and Filipinos. They made them march for 60 miles without food and sometimes only a sip of water. If people fell down or became sick, they would be killed. If someone tried to help someone who fell down, that person would also be killed. Thousands of the prisoners were killed in that march. This was known as the Bataan Death March. Those Japanese soldiers didn't want to be bothered by prisoners who were sick or couldn't walk right. Sometimes people do evil things to others.

Jesus did not harm people who were sick. He did not harm his enemies. He cared even about those who were actually possessed by devils. Jesus healed the sick and delivered the possessed. He came to help all people. If you are ever in trouble, remember that Jesus is kind and loving. If you call on him, he will help you.

Thinking Deeper

In September 2008, a report came out of Russia that a Satanist group had killed four teens, had stabbed them each 666 times, and then had eaten them. Commenting on the story, one writer claimed that most Satanists are kind people who only want to "put pleasure above penance." The writer went on to say that these Satanists must have had the Christian view of Satan and implied that it was the Christian view of Satan as evil that influenced these Satanists to be evil instead of kind and good. In other words, Christian teaching is at fault for what these Satanists did!

When Jesus came, he came to deliver people from the clutches of Satan. He came to heal them of their diseases. And the followers of Jesus have done these same things throughout history. Christian charities have established clinics and hospitals around the world to help those who are sick. Also, a major part of prayers in Christian churches are for people who are sick or in trouble, asking God to heal the sick and deliver the oppressed. When someone does something truly evil, what do Christians do in church? They request prayer for the situation. They ask that God will bring deliverance. Even after Madelyn Murray was responsible for having prayer removed from schools in 1963, many churches prayed for her. [An interesting side note: her son William became a believer.]

Jesus came to heal and deliver. His followers continue in His footsteps.

**Tuesday      Week 37      Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Ministry**

Bible Reading: Matthew 8:14-18

Q. 146 What special woman did Jesus heal?

A. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.

Martin Luther was a brave preacher who stood up for right beliefs. He is well known around the world. When he was a boy, his mother would often go hungry so that little Martin would have enough food to eat. She showed great love. Mothers are special people. Mothers-in-law are also special.

Peter's wife had a mother who was special. She was mentioned in the Bible because Jesus went to Peter's house and learned that she was sick. Jesus healed her. When she was healed, she fixed a meal for Jesus and the others in the house. Jesus cares about mothers and mothers-in-law. He cares when they are sick, and he has the power to heal them. The Lord said, "I *am* the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). We can always bring our needs to Him.

Thinking Deeper

Peter was a married man who experienced the love of God and the power of God for his extended family. That included his mother-in-law. There is some controversy between Protestants and Roman Catholics about regulations for priests (one of whom will eventually become Pope) and marriage. In 1139 A.D. the Roman Catholic Church officially decreed that priests should be celibate. Some Protestants say that Catholics contradict scripture by forbidding priests to marry. The Bible specifies that a church leader should be the husband of one wife. There is nothing in that which logically demands that the leader should be celibate. Also, Catholics admit in their literature that Peter had a wife.

Some say that requiring celibacy separates the clergy from the sinful world. The problem with that argument is that it equates non-celibacy as somehow sinful, or at least a lesser righteousness, when the Bible says that "marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled." Ultimately, the difference is that Protestants maintain that our rules of living come from only the Scriptures, and Catholics see them coming from both Scripture and church tradition. Peter's example of being married falls into the Protestant understanding of living out the Scriptures without the burden of a man-made tradition to add to them.

## Wednesday Week 37 Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Ministry

Bible Reading: Matthew 9:27-31

Q. 147 Why were the two blind men healed?

A. They had faith to be healed.

A woman who lived in Kansas was diagnosed with cancer. Her family heard about her illness and began praying. A Christian woman in Ohio heard about her need. She helped the family pray. She told them not to be fearful but to bring their need to the Lord. The woman who was sick also prayed. She believed God's Word that she could be healed. It was not long until the cancer was gone. God heard her prayer, and the prayers of others, and healed her. That woman lived many years after that. She often testified about how God had healed her.

The two blind men called out to Jesus asking that he would heal them. They came to where he was. Jesus asked them if they believed he could heal them. They really did believe. Jesus said that what they believed would happen. They both received their sight.

We can learn from those blind men. Jesus answers us as we believe him. "According to your faith will it be done to you."

### Thinking Deeper

Does Jesus still heal? Of course he does. Do we understand why some people are healed and others are not? Of course we don't. Some people think they do, but they often cause trouble with their opinions.

A woman was in the hospital dealing with a serious illness. A couple of men from her church came and told her to believe. They told her that the reason she was in the hospital was that she had not been exercising the right kind of faith. They didn't pray with her as much as they scolded her. When they left, she was in tears. A Christian who had overheard what they said came to the woman and told her to trust the Lord, not the words of men. Not all sickness is because of disobedience or lack of faith. Some people just get sick. That woman needed a kind word and an interceding prayer, not a scolding. Yet she could have hope that as she prayed and trusted the Lord, He would heal her according to His will. She dried her tears and prayed in faith. Her heart was at peace.

You can read how many godly men have pondered the questions about healing. You'll find that all the questions about it just can't be answered. Yet God has left us some instructions that we are to follow. If we're sick, call the elders to pray. The prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up. How God does that and in what measure is in His hands. It is our responsibility to follow Him and believe. Trust, and obey. Jesus has the power to heal in his hands.

**Thursday    Week 37    Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Ministry**

Bible Reading: Matthew 15:21-29

Q. 148 Why was the Canaanite woman's daughter delivered from the devil?

A. Her mother had faith in the power of Jesus.

According to a Gospel for Asia report in February 2008, a man in India was acting in a strange manner. He was running around wildly, and people could not understand what he was saying. His family asked the missionary to come and pray for him. He started to get better. But they also asked a witch doctor to say a kind of spell over him. The spell actually made him worse. Finally, they brought him back to the missionary. The missionary prayed that God would deliver him. In answer to prayer, the man was delivered from the demonic influence through the power of Jesus Christ. When other people in their village saw what happened, they also became believers in Jesus.

The Canaanite woman had a daughter who was possessed by a devil. She came to Jesus and asked for help. She believed that the power of Jesus was so great, that just a crumb of it would be enough to deliver her daughter. Because she believed, Jesus delivered her daughter. Jesus has power to deliver people from Satan's grasp.

Thinking Deeper

Who has more power, God or the devil? It is clear in the Bible that God has far greater power than Satan has. When someone is in the clutches of Satan, who can intervene? The person cannot help himself. Someone under Satan's power is deceived and powerless. He needs someone to step in on his behalf. When we see someone in that condition, what can we do? The story of the woman whose daughter was "grievously vexed with a devil" gives us an example.

The Canaanite woman realized that Jesus was God and that there is no power greater than his. Although Satan had intruded so deeply into her daughter's life that the daughter was unable to help herself, there was help. The woman realized that if she could have Jesus intervene, then her daughter could be delivered. So she cried out to Jesus. Jesus heard her cry. He had mercy on her. He delivered her daughter.

What did the woman do? She called on the Lord. What did the Lord do? He showed his mighty power and delivered the girl from the devil. What did the girl do? She merely received what another had done for her. There are times when a believer must act on behalf of someone who cannot act for himself or herself. Believing prayer and the power of God working together will bring a great deliverance.

**Friday      Week 37      Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Ministry**

Review the Week's Questions.

- Q. 145 What kind of people did Jesus heal?  
A. Jesus healed the sick and those that were possessed with devils.
- Q. 146 What special woman did Jesus heal?  
A. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.
- Q. 147 Why were the two blind men healed?  
A. They had faith to be healed.
- Q. 148 Why was the Canaanite woman's daughter healed?  
A. Her mother had faith in the power of Jesus.

Anna Warner wrote the words, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Her song became very popular and sung all over the world by Christians. They know that Jesus loves us. Jesus showed his love by helping people. He healed people who were sick and he delivered people who were possessed by devils. Devils do not like people, and people who are on the devil's side do not like God's people.

Rev. Ed Hird noted that when the Mao was ruler, he wanted to destroy the church in China. The church was under great persecution from the communist government. However, in 1972 a word came out of China that said, "The 'this I know' people are well." The communists didn't understand what it meant, but Christians around the world knew what it meant. They knew the song "Jesus Loves Me" and they knew that Jesus was helping his people in China.

Jesus loves us today. If you are sick, call on him. If the devil is giving you a hard time, call on Jesus. He loves you. He healed the sick and gave sight to the blind. He will help you when you call on him.

**Thinking Deeper**

Part of the message of the Gospel is that Jesus can deliver those who are in bondage. The Gospel doesn't stop with the forgiveness of sins, although that is a great part of it. It doesn't stop with giving freedom from the sinful life, although that is a major result of the Gospel when it is received. The message of the Gospel proclaims that there is deliverance. Jesus came to heal the sick and to deliver the oppressed.

When an army comes to liberate captives from an enemy, they first take the prison and tear down the bars. But they still must take the chains and handcuffs off of the prisoners. Although it is good to be free of the general oppression of the enemy, it is better to have the shackles removed from each prisoner. Jesus came to remove us from the enemy's prison, and also to deliver us from the individual chains that bound our lives.

You have a great opportunity as a Christian to be free from the guilt of sin and also from the bondage of sinful habits and patterns. Jesus came to heal and deliver. What a wonderful Savior!