

SERMON GUIDE:

I. Introduction

- A. This series – *Kingdom Presence* – is a collection of moments with Jesus in the Word.
 - 1. Catch Up With The Series on YouTube, Apple Podcasts or Spotify
 - 2. [Hebrews 1:1-3](#) tells us God is speaking to us today, through His Son.
 - 3. We recently dug into some of Jesus' famous teachings and parables. Now we turn our attention to the way He interacted with normal people
 - 4. As we meditate on moments with Jesus, we'll find that He is the expression of God's heart for us – And we'll gain instruction on HOW to live, since God's Spirit shapes us to be more like Jesus every day
- B. Today we look at two healing moments that stir up our faith
- C. Read [Matthew 8:1-13](#)

II. Unpacking The Stories

- A. Jesus comes down the mountain!
 - 1. Immediately following the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus doesn't hang out on a pedestal, He descends into our mess
 - 2. This is who Jesus is, the one who came for us, bringing light into our darkness (See [Isaiah 61:1-3](#))
- B. Now we look at two stories back-to-back... moments of healing
 - 1. The Leper
 - a. Calling this man a leper didn't necessarily mean he had leprosy as we think of it (Hansen's Disease), it was a term encompassing many skin diseases in Jesus' day
 - b. If someone was labelled a leper, they were separated from society in quarantine indefinitely.

- c. We know a bit about quarantines and their affect on our hearts after the events of 2020 worldwide. Could you imagine an indefinite quarantine being what you wake up to every day?
- d. On top of this, a leper would have to shout “unclean” to those around
- e. They were ostracized, abandoned, and often hopeless
- f. The leper came to Jesus, in utter desperation
- g. The crowd around Jesus would be freaking out... gasping when they saw the man (See the Video Link at the end for a taste of the tension)
- h. But no matter what anyone thought, the man had to get to Jesus and, instead of calling out “Unclean!” he said, “You can make me clean.”
- i. Then Jesus does something even more shocking... leaning into the moment... he touched the leper and healed him!

2. The Centurion

- a. Another gasp... as another outsider comes to Jesus... this one a powerful enemy... what on earth could he be doing here!?
- b. He came to Jesus the same way as the Leper... in humility
- c. Just like the Leper, he called Jesus “Lord,” honoring Him and placing himself under Jesus’ authority
- d. This moment would have been consider treason for a roman soldier
- e. Again, Jesus leans into the moment, and is about to go with him...
- f. Then, for the first time, Jesus is shocked.
 - Everyone around Him may have been gasping in surprise at the Leper and the Centurion, but Jesus came for such as these... outsiders...
 - But when the Centurion tells Jesus, “I am not worthy, but all you have to do is say the word from here and my servant will be healed,” Jesus is amazed at him!
 - What faith this man had... that even Jesus was amazed.
- g. Jesus declares to him, “Go! Your servant will be well!”

III. The Good News

- A. Two outsiders... both needed the healing... both came to the right place... to Jesus Himself
 - 1. [Matthew continues the story](#), and tells us many more were healed
 - 2. And then He tells us why... why these things began happening... because Jesus is the healer we need
 - 3. He quotes [Isaiah 53](#), the description of Jesus as the one who bore our sin and brought our healing
 - a. Because Jesus is not just a teacher on a mountain
 - b. He was despised & rejected, so we could be accepted & approved
 - c. He willingly became an outsider, so outsiders could become family
 - d. He was stripped naked so our shame could be covered
 - e. He was broken so we could be whole again
 - f. He took on our diseases so we could be healed
 - g. He was thrown into torment, so we could have peace
 - h. He stepped into our mess, with healing power... and took it all the way to the cross, to meet our deepest need
- B. This is the reality that day and everyday: *No matter who you are... or what your need is, Jesus is the ultimate source of healing as you trust and follow Him*
- C. In this life, outside the perfect presence of God we were made for, we all need healing – physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.
 - 1. There are many maladies, and one remedy – Christ Jesus Himself
 - 2. He came and endured everything we endure, so we can be whole again
 - 3. It's not about who we are... or what we're dealing with... it's all about who He is... and what He has already dealt with on our behalf...
 - 4. What does that mean for us today?

IV. Live It

- A. When we look at healing in the Bible, we see there is God's part and our part

1. God's Part

a. Method

- Just as in our passage today, the healings were different
- In scripture, Jesus seems to heal differently each time
- Maybe he doesn't want us to try to make a controllable formula
- Sometimes He heals immediately, or progressively over time
- Sometimes He heals with hands on, other times it's a touch of His cloak, or a long-distance healing
- The Method of our healing is God's business

b. Timing

- We struggle with this reality... the timing of healing is also God's business
- It's hard for us when we feel a need... and maybe you've been praying for healing and have not yet received what you hope for
- Choosing to trust through those seasons is not easy
- In the Word, we see that God heals in three ways, regarding timing:
 - ◇ He heals immediately
 - ◇ He heals progressively over time
 - ◇ He heals in eternity
- [Revelation 21:1-5](#) paints an incredible picture of what God ultimately desires for us: a time and place where pain and grief and loss and tears are a thing forever healed.
- There are things in our lives that we will not experience healing for until we are with Him and His Kingdom arrives in full

c. The timing and the method are God's Part, what's ours

2. Our Part

a. Come with Boldness and Expectation

- We don't demand a particular experience, but we come expecting
 - ... because of who He is
 - We come like the Leper and the Centurion, with audacious faith
- b. This is what Jesus wants us to do, loves when we do:
- [Matthew 7:7-8](#) says ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking
 - [Another time](#) Jesus tells His disciples to pray with tenacity, giving them the example story of a widow demanding justice from an unjust judge... she keeps pounding away until he gives in!
- c. So don't pray sheepishly
- [Mark Batterson](#) says "Bold prayer honor God and God honors bold prayers."
 - Let's remember who we're praying to: [Hebrews 4:14-16](#)
 - The method and the timing are in His hands, but we come with boldness, because of who Jesus is: It's not about us... or what we're dealing with... it's about Jesus and what He dealt with for us

B. Getting Practical

1. What is an area of healing you need to see in your life? Physical, Emotional, Relational, Spiritual?
2. Are you coming to Jesus with boldness and expectation?
3. Maybe, like the centurion, you need to step in on behalf of another and bring their need to Jesus... who in your life do you know that needs healing?

V. More to engage/study:

1. Bible Project Video – [Matthew](#)
2. Bible Project Podcast – [Make Me Clean](#)
3. [The Chosen's imagining of this conversation](#) (some artistic license but very beautiful)