

Sovereign Grace Church
“An Everyday Miracle” outline
January 13, 2019

Matthew 8: 14-17

This morning we come to the final occurrence of a supernatural healing in Matthew's triad. We have seen that these healings were not only a demonstration of the power of Christ's Kingdom, now available for entry by anyone who desires to enter it, but also an indication of certain changes in the social life of those who reside in this Kingdom. The healing of the leper demonstrated the obliteration of the ceremonial laws which used certain social distinctions of clean/unclean to demonstrate the difficulty of a fallen human being entering the presence of a holy God. The healing of the centurion's servant demonstrated the breaking down of the barrier of Jew and Gentile.

But with the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, no such distinction is obvious. Though there were certain barriers between men and women at the time, and Jesus' ministry did break down these barriers, such an occurrence is not really evident here. This healing seems to be just a normal everyday occurrence of living life with Jesus! Peter's mother-in-law was sick with fever and not able to perform her normal tasks. Jesus healed her and she immediately resumed them. Perhaps the thought here conveys more the idea that Jesus' power is not only available to defeat the “Goliath's” of our spiritual lives...but also our common everyday problems. During today's sermon we will summarize these three healing occurrences in looking at the deeper issues which they all seemed to reflect.

1. Breaking Barriers Col 3: 9-11

- **Mosaic law and social barriers Deut 5: 23-27**

- **The Cross and the Barrier of Sin Matt 27: 5-6**

- **The Personal Presence of Christ Heb. 13: 5-6**

2. Defeating Sickness and Death Matt 8: 14-15; Isa 53: 44-45

- **Sin I Pet 2: 24**

- **Consequences of Sin Matt 8: 16; I Cor. 15:26; Jn 8: 51**

- **Kingdom Power involves increasing deliverance from sin and consequences of sin.**

3. Elimination of Fear as a Motivating Force I Jn 4:18

- **Fear is the natural state of fallen people Eccl. 2: 22-23**
- **Fear results from a lack of Trust I Jn 4: 18**
- **With Jesus, there are No Grounds for Fear Psm 23; Job 1:5; 3:25; 1:21; 42: 1-6**

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

- 1. What were some of the “barriers” that Jesus' ministry canceled? Do you think that Christians sometimes today re-create barriers between people....even within the church? What do you think motivates this? Do you think that you have ever been guilty of such?**
- 2. Is there still a “barrier” between sinners and God? If so, what is it and what is its significance? If not, why not, given the obvious fact that sinners still exist?**
- 3. Do you fear death? Why or why not? Did Jesus fear death....even in His humanity? If not, what does His suffering in the Garden indicate? If He did, did He lack faith?!**
- 4. What does it mean to trust God “in the moment?” Why is this significant?**
- 5. Do you relate to Job's progression in faith? Do you ever worry that in “messing up” God might punish you? What is your response when you entertain trying circumstances? Do you ever wish to reason things out with God like Job? What was Job's final lesson? Have you learned it? How do you know? How can you know?**