

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #165

HEALING: PART OF THE CHILDREN'S BREAD

The Healing Ministry of Jesus

PART ONE

(Taken from *ALL THE MIRACLES OF THE BIBLE BY Herbert Lockyer*)

The saint who works no miracles has few pilgrims.

Ancient Proverb

I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread that cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat of it, and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:48-51

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes, we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

Then Jesus went from there and departed into the borders of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same borders, and cried unto Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, "Send her away; for she crieth after us." But He answered and said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then came she and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me." But He answered and said, "It is not right to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." And she said, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table." 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 well from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

This is the first time in Jesus' public ministry that He goes to this region. Some believe He never left the Jewish part. Others say it was his first time

outside of Israel. He had earlier sent his disciples out two by two but told them not to go out of Israel but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Between the time He sent them out and this miracle, He healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:10-13). That was the final straw for the Pharisees, and they went out and had a council meeting to plan how they could destroy Him. Over the course of His three year ministry on earth, He healed at least seven people on the Sabbath.

What is the Children's Bread? The first children were the Jews. The bread here is the whole salvation package, through the Messiah, which includes salvation for the spirit, soul and body. Thus, the body, broken for us at Calvary, gives us forgiveness of sins, healing, and deliverance. Children can have the whole loaf, but even dogs can have the crumbs because of the compassion and love of Christ.

What are dogs? Gentiles at that time were referred to by the Jews as dogs, and now dogs represent more specifically unbelievers, since Gentiles believers have been grafted into the vine.

Finis Dake gives 10 points of the prayer of this woman: It was short, humble, fervent, desperate, rational, respectful, worshipful, persevering, determined, and full of faith in Christ. Here was one who was not a Jewish believer, but oh, that we could pray and get healing results like she did.

Jesus did not heal anyone in His hometown Nazareth where He grew up.

Miracles of Healing by Jesus:

1. John 4:46-54: **The Healing of the Jewish Nobleman's Son** was based on the faith of the father. It was the first recorded healing miracle. Jesus did not go to the home. He just declared that the boy was healed (Psalm 107:20-*He sent His word to heal them and delivered them from their destruction.*), and the nobleman believed Him, and sure enough the nobleman found out that the son was healed the very hour that Jesus spoke the word. The son had a fever and was dying. Jesus was in Cana twenty miles away from Capernaum.
2. Luke 4:33-36: **The Miracle of the Synagogue Demoniac** is one of Jesus' first Sabbath Day healings. Jesus was in the synagogue ministering when there was an outburst of a demon-possessed man whom He delivered. The people may not have know that this man had a demon until the demon was in the presence of Jesus and

shrieked in fear. Luke calls the demon unclean indicating that there was some immorality that the man had fallen into and thus opened himself up to. It was expelled verbally by Jesus.

3. Luke 4:31-39: **Peter's mother-in-law was healed later in the day following** the demon possessed man in the Synagogue, who suddenly interrupted Jesus when he was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and Jesus delivered him. Then, later in the day He healed Peter's mother-in-law who was in bed with what Dr. Luke called a "great" fever. She got up completely well. This was done in a home, and there is no evidence that this was the result of sin. Jesus laid hands on her, as he often did with sick people, including lepers, but usually He did not deliver demoniacs by the laying on of hands.
4. Luke 4:40-: That same evening the whole town gathered outside Peter's house, and Jesus healed **ALL who were sick in Capernaum**. Apparently they kept Him up all night with this ministry, and when day came he departed to a desert place, but the people followed Him trying to convince Him to stay, but He answered that He must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also, but He goes out in Simon Peter's boat and taught the people sitting in the boat.
5. Mark 1:40-45: **The Miracle of the Cleansed Leper** showcases the terrible disease of leprosy. Under the old dispensation, lepers were declared unclean, completely separated from the people, and provided with no medicinal care. The Jews called leprosy "the finger of God", believing that this disease was a divine punishment for sin. The Leper had to cry out wherever they went, "Unclean! Unclean!" and wear on their brow the outward sign of separation. Luke tells us that the leper fell on his face, which was the greatest homage a person could pay to another. The Leper asked, "Wilt Thou?..." and Jesus answers, "I will!" The Leper did not doubt that Jesus could. He wondered, however, if He would, since Leprosy implied sin in the person's life. Therefore, Lepers were not healed but cleansed. The followers of Jesus stepped back in horror, for to touch a leper meant defilement and caused one to be a social outcast. Jesus, however, moved with compassion, does the unthinkable, touches Him, and he is immediately made perfectly whole.
6. Luke 5:18-25: **The Miracle of the Paralytic** was made possible by the faith of 4 friends. Jesus had been teaching all day in a person's house-probably Peter's and probably an upper room. This happened in Capernaum, which Jesus considered his home town, after leaving Nazareth. Luke tells us that this one suffered from palsy which is

paralysis of the nervous system. Since Jesus called him “son” or “child”, he must have been young and completely disabled. The friends could not get in the house because of the crowd so they decided to take off part of the roof and lower him down to where Jesus was. Jesus was in no way offended by this interruption and was pleased with the faith of these four men. First, Jesus indicates that this sickness is the result of sin, and He forgives the paralytic’s sin. Secondly, He heals the body and tells the paralytic to rise and walk, and he immediately takes up his bed, rises and walks. This infuriates the scribes and Pharisees who correctly recognize that only God can forgive sin but who incorrectly assume that Jesus is not God.

7. Luke 6:6-10: **The Miracle of the Withered Hand** makes the Pharisees angry because it was done on the Sabbath. This particular disease was not of the arm but of the hand, and specifically the right hand. Tradition says that this man was a bricklayer who needed his hand to be whole so that he could earn his livelihood. He obeyed Jesus’ command to “stand forth” and to “stretch forth thy hand” and was healed. The Pharisees and the Herodians were inflamed with hate and took counsel to destroy Jesus.
8. Matthew 8:5-13: **The Miracle of the Centurion’s Servant** is another instance where Jesus healed at a distance. Matthew tells us that the servant was “grievously tormented” with “palsy” or paralysis with great pain, and Luke tells us that he was “sick and ready to die.” Apparently, the centurion first went to his Jewish friends and begged them to intercede for him with Jesus. This centurion, while not Jewish, loved the Jewish religion and people and had rebuilt one of their synagogues at his own expense. He considered himself unworthy to approach Jesus on his own. He had complete faith that all Jesus had to do was speak the word, and the servant would be healed, even at a distance, which Jesus did.
9. Luke 7:11-18: **The Miracle of the Widow’s Son** was the greatest healing miracle that Jesus had done up to that time. The followers of Jesus were walking near a town called Nain. They met up with a group of mourners going to bury a widow’s only son. Without being asked by the widow or anyone else, Jesus, filled with compassion for this woman without child, says, “Weep not!” and goes up to the bier and touches what Jewish rulers would avoid doing at all costs because this would have made them ceremonially defiled. Jesus said very simply, “I say unto you, arise” and immediately the dead boy sat straight up and spoke. Elijah, Elisha, Peter, and Paul all raised people

from the dead, as have evangelists in our generation, but the difference is their power came from another source. Jesus was the source of His own power. This miracle caused the religious rulers to become even more hostile to Jesus.

10. Matthew 9:18-26: **The Miracle of Jairus' Daughter & the Woman with the Issue of Blood** present a miracle within a miracle. Jesus and the Twelve had just returned to Capernaum on the western side of the Sea of Galilee. Jairus, a humble ruler in the synagogue, was in the crowd that meet them and bowed before Jesus asking him to come to the side of his dying daughter. Jesus immediately leaves to go to Jairus's house. On His way a woman with an issue of blood touches the hem of His garment, and He stops and asked, "Who touched Me?" This woman had been ill and in pain for 12 years. We do not know if this was something like hemorrhoids or cancer of the uterus or some other type of cancer. Because she was ceremonially unclean, and when she touched Jesus, He technically was ceremonially unclean, we can understand her shame at the Lord's questions. The disciples were puzzled that the Lord would ask such a question, because He was suffocatingly pressed on every side by people. The woman had spent all of her money searching for a cure, and she only got worse. One touch of the Master and she was made whole. The Lord said to her, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." The faith did not cure her. It was the touch of the Master, but faith was the pipeline that connected her to Him.

Jesus goes on to Jairus' house. Jairus, in reaching out to Jesus, shows that he knows the powerlessness of religion and Pharisaical rules and regulations in the presence of death. His twelve year old daughter was his only child. On the way to the house Jairus in the presence of Jesus is told by a messenger that his daughter has died, but Jesus reassures Jairus that he should not fear but only believe. The mourners laugh Jesus to scorn when he tells them that the daughter is only asleep, but he puts all of them out of the house, except for the parents and James and John and Peter; takes the girl by the hand; and says, "Maid, arise!" She immediately comes to life again.

11. Matthew 9:27-31: **The Miracle of the Two Blind Men** was probably done in Peter's home. The Middle Eastern countries have much more blindness and eye problems than people elsewhere because of the climate and soil. These men had followed Jesus from Jairus' house after He had healed Jairus' daughter and obviously had faith that

Jesus not only could heal them but was the Messiah, since they loudly cried out, "Thou Son of David." They asked for mercy, and Jesus asked them point blank, "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" Their answer, "Yes, Lord!" Jesus touched their eyes, and they were opened and could see.

12. Matthew 9:32-35: **The Miracle of the Dumb Demonic** involves a man who was both deaf and dumb because of demonic possession. Jesus simply cast out the demon. The Jewish rulers could not deny the reality of the miracle so they told the people that He cast out demons through the prince of demons, Beelzebub.
13. Matthew 15:21-28: **The Miracle of the Syro-Phoenician Woman's Daughter** involves a woman who was a Gentile who supposedly worshiped Ashtoreth who was supposed to give her followers everything good and to allow them to do almost anything evil. She is perhaps the only pagan blessed by the Lord Himself when He was in the flesh. She came to ask the Lord to heal her badly demonized daughter. Although a non-believer, she recognized Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. Perhaps her cry for mercy for herself was an acknowledgement that her own sin had opened the door for her daughter's possession. Her daughter was totally disabled. Jesus was silent and apparently left the house. Yet this woman followed behind Him and annoyed His disciples so much that they asked Him to send her away. But He did not send her away without honoring her persistence and faith and healing her daughter from a distance with the words, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." This probably was Jesus' first convert from paganism, and it is said that the later church at Tyre, where this woman lived, grew large, and was perhaps started by this miracle.
14. Mark 7:31-32: **The Miracle of the Deaf and Dumb Man of Decapolis** is one of many miracles that Jesus did when He returned from the border of Tyre and Sidon. He apparently had been able to hear at one time but had lost his hearing and could make noises but not utter articulate sounds. The Jews believed that one whose could not talk had his tongue bound by a demon. Taking the man away from the crowd, He put his fingers in the man's ears. Then Jesus spits on his finger and touches the man's tongue with His finger. Ancient people believed that spit had medicinal powers and was also used in sacrifices. The person spit on his own sacrifice in order to add to the sacrifice a part of himself. Jesus looked up to heaven as a sign to this

man that His power to heal came from God. The man was completely healed.

15. Mark 8:22-26: **The Miracle of the Bethsaida Blind Man** was the only miracle of Jesus which was not done instantaneously. Again Jesus uses His own spit to touch the man's eyes. At first the man sees men who trees walking. In other words his vision is blurred. When Jesus repeats this act again, the man sees clearly. We know that Jesus could have healed completely the first time. Perhaps He was trying to awaken faith in the man whose faith certainly sky rocketed when his eyes could see even if blurry.
16. Matthew 17:14-21: **The Miracle of the Demonic Boy** is the first miracle Jesus performed after coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration. A heart-broken father kneels down to Jesus and relates that the 9 disciples left at the foot of the mountain could not cure his lunatic son. He asks Jesus to heal his son, although he does not show much faith, but says, "IF you are able." Jesus puts this issue of faith back on the father, "IF you can believe..." The father answers, "I believe; help my unbelief." The boy had terrible symptoms, including severe convulsions, foaming at the mouth, grinding of teeth, and general rigidity of body. He also often fell into the fire and in to the water during these attacks, since he had not control over his body. He was very pale and was deaf and dumb, in the sense that he could not utter articulate sounds but could make noises. Partially, this is a description of epilepsy but so much more. The Jews believed that epilepsy was inflicted on people who had committed sins against the moon. Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and he was instantly cured. Later He explains to the 9 disciples that they could not cast this demon out because of their unbelief, and because some demons only go after the believer has prayed and fasted.
17. John 9: **The Miracle of the Man Born Blind** is a rare situation of a man being healed without asking. The man was begging on the side of the road for alms. The disciples asked Jesus if the man was blind because of his own sin or the sin of his parents. Of course, it could not have been because of his sin because he was born that way. Jesus assures them that this blindness was not caused by either the parents or the child, but for the glory of God. Jesus spit in the dirt and put this clay spittle on the blind man's eyes. Ancient doctors used this method in treating people who became blind but no one had ever been

healed who was born blind, as this man was. The man washed the clay out of his eyes and was healed instantly.

18. Luke 13:10-17: **The Miracle of the Infirm Woman** was another healing that the Lord did on the Sabbath and thus another reason the Pharisees were out to get Him. The woman had a deformity caused by a spirit of infirmity in her back, making her have to walk bowed down. This in turn had left her very depressed and melancholy. Jesus says she is one whom Satan had bound. She was in the synagogue and did not ask for healing nor did Jesus wait to be asked. Jesus laid his hand on the woman, and she was immediately made straight. Immediately she began to glorify God. This made the ruler of the synagogue very angry, and he berated Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus answers him in a severity that was unusual for Jesus, but it shamed the ruler into silence. This is one instance where the crowd rallied around Jesus and also began glorifying God.
19. Luke 14:1-6: **The Miracle of the Dropsical Man** was also done on the Sabbath. Jesus was invited to one of the high-ups in the Pharisee organization. The scripture indicates that they “watched” Jesus as they were eating. Perhaps they wanted to catch him some act that departed from their rules so that they could accuse Him. They might have even invited this sick man to lay a trap for Jesus. One of the ancient writers said that the Jews held these Sabbath days to honor the Sabbath and yet hypocritically used the banquets to get drunk. The diseased man had perhaps an enlarged heart or a swollen kidney, and although he did not ask for a healing, Jesus took him in his arms and healed Him and then sent him out. Jesus turned to face His accusers. They had said nothing, but He knew what was in their hearts, and preempted their attack on Him but silencing them with questions they could not answer, i.e. Would they not rescue their oxen if they fell into a pit on the Sabbath?
20. Luke 17:11-19: **The Miracle of the Ten Lepers** tells the story of one Samaritan and nine Jews who, as unclean Lepers, hung out together. This miracle happens late in Jesus’ ministry as he traveled to his last pilgrimage to Jerusalem by going through Samaria, a place hated by the Jews. These lepers stood afar off, obeying the law which said that they had to be at least 100 paces away from other people because they were contagious. They cried out to Jesus from a distance. Jesus did not touch them as he had earlier done with the single leper. He just told them to go show themselves to the priests, and as they went, they were completely made whole. Their cure did

not come until they obeyed His command by faith. The priests could not cure leprosy. They could only declare when lepers were clean. Jesus sent them to the priests because He did not come to destroy the law. Only one of the ten returned to thank the Lord. He was the lone Samaritan. In returning he received a double blessing, of having his sinful soul also cleansed.

21. Mark 10:46-52: **The Miracle of Blind Bartimaeus** took place around Jericho, after Jesus had been a guest of Zacchaeus, during the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Bartimaeus, perhaps with another blind man, was a beggar on the road, and he loudly cried when he heard that Jesus was passing by, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." The crowd rebuked him, but Bartimaeus would not be quiet. Jesus called the blind men to Himself, and after asking what they wanted, touched them, and they received their sight. Jesus said to them, "Thy faith hath saved thee."

22. Matthew 26:51-56: **The Miracle of Malchus' Ear** was the last healing miracle of Jesus before His death on the cross. The scene is one of great paradox. A great multitude came to arrest a defenseless man. The traitor kisses Him. He asks the crowd whom they seek. He tells them I am He. His voice is so full of the Spirit that they temporarily are thrown to the ground. He thus could have easily walked away but He did not. John gives us the name of the High Priest's servant, Malchus, and also is the only Gospel writer to identify Peter as the one who cut off Malchus' ear. Luke is the only one who reports the miraculous healing of the ear. Jesus healed without any one's faith in play and without being asked.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What is the one thing most often needed for a healing miracle?
2. Whose faith is required for healing?
3. What is the cause of sickness?
4. Are sicknesses always demonic or due to sin?
5. Why do you think that we see no more miracles today than we do?

Through
by Bill Gaither and Michael Sykes

When I saw what lay before me
“Lord, “ I cried, “What will you do?”
I thought He would just remove it
But He gently led me through
Without fire, there’s no refining
Without pain, no relief
Without flood, there’s no rescue
Without testing, no belief

Through the fire, through the flood
Through the water, through the blood
Through the dry and barren places
Through life’s dense and maddening mazes
Through the pain and through the glory
Through will always tell the story
Of a God who’s power and mercy
Will not fail to take us through.