

WEEK 1

# Jesus Heals and Reverses

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Matthew 9:18-34



## MATTHEW 9 : 1 8 - 3 4

<sup>18</sup>As he was telling them these things, suddenly one of the leaders came and knelt down before him, saying, "My daughter just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

<sup>19</sup>So Jesus and his disciples got up and followed him. <sup>20</sup>Just then, a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years approached from behind and touched the end of his robe, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I'll be made well." <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned and saw her. "Have courage, daughter," he said. "Your faith has saved you." And the woman was made well from that moment. <sup>23</sup>When Jesus came to the leader's house, he saw the flute players and a crowd lamenting loudly. <sup>24</sup>"Leave," he said, "because the girl is not dead but asleep." And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup>Then news of this spread throughout that whole area.

<sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup>When he entered the house, the blind men approached him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup>Then he touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." <sup>30</sup>And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus warned them sternly, "Be sure that no one finds out." <sup>31</sup>But they went out and spread the news about him throughout that whole area.

<sup>32</sup>Just as they were going out, a demon-possessed man who was unable to speak was brought to him. <sup>33</sup>When the demon had been driven out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed, saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!" <sup>34</sup>But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the ruler of the demons."

# SERMON NOTES

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### TEACHING SUMMARY

We see that Jesus has power over demons, over sickness, over death, and over evil. Through His miracles, we see a glimpse of our future home—a day when all the effects of sin are reversed and evil is no more. In the messy middle, He sometimes heals now. And one day He will forever heal. You can come to Him for healing and trust Him for your future healing.

### LEAN IN

Do you think healing miracles still happen today? Why or why not?

### LOOK DOWN

#### **READ MATTHEW 9:18-26 (pg. 14)**

Who were the two people who humbled themselves before Jesus? How were they different? How did their differences play into the significance of Jesus' response to them?

What did the leader and the bleeding woman do to receive the miracle Jesus had for them?

#### **READ MATTHEW 9:27-34 (pg. 14)**

What did the blind men have in common with the leader (v. 18) and the bleeding woman (v. 21)?

What did the blind men believe about Jesus by calling him the "Son of David" (v. 27)? Why did Jesus not want them to tell anyone?

When Jesus cast out a demon (v. 33-34), what was the reaction of the crowd? What was the reaction of the Pharisees? What is your reaction?

## LOOK OUT

In this story, there are people who are desperate for Jesus, people who admire Jesus, and people who oppose Jesus. What do each of these postures toward Jesus lead to?

Are these different postures still applicable to our world today? Explain.

## LOOK IN

What does Jesus need to restore in your life (e.g., your relationship with Him; your relationship with someone else; health; finances; job; ministry; other)? How do Jesus' miracles speak to you about what you are facing?

How should we be bold in the way we approach God like the desperate people who approached the Lord in this passage?

## RHYTHM REMINDER



prayer



Eileen's Story:

# Jesus, the Healer

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*written by: Julie Francis*

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Twelve years after Eileen's gastric bypass surgery to help control weight issues that had plagued her throughout her life, things took a shocking turn. Little did she know, her surgery had caused an unexpected blockage that sent her to the emergency room with sepsis and a 108-degree fever. She was placed in a medically-induced coma for eight days to curb her respiratory failure as the doctors did all they could to save her life. Then, the unexpected happened. Eileen's healing kicked into overdrive and God carried her through the most difficult health situation she ever faced.

Eileen turned her trust over to God, and He got her through the septic scare and the three-month recovery. She knew it was all because of Him. There was no other medical explanation. The doctors were baffled that she did not need a permanent feeding tube or a colostomy bag, and there was no permanent wound damage.

Not only was Eileen healed, but she recalled even more improvements in her life that God had blessed her with. She found she could pray in perfect Spanish despite not knowing the lan-

guage before her coma. It was as if God had provided a way to turn her medical situation around for good so she could let others know that worship, obedience to God, and faithfulness in prayer were the answers she could share with others to get them through their own difficult situations.

Without clinging to God, Eileen knew she couldn't stand on solid ground to continue with her recovery. Her joy comes from God, and she is so thankful she had the proper care surrounding her at the time. She is reminded daily that she was given a gift, even though it was through a life-altering medical issue. She glorifies God for this reminder.

As it says in Luke 7:21-22, "At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people. He replied to them, 'Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news.'" ●

# The Orchestrator of Miracles

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*written by: Angelina Joseph*

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I usually travel overseas for work or vacation, but it was different this time. I was going to visit my brother who was going through a difficult time in his life. It was a situation requiring family support as he was left with a teenager to raise on his own. My brother is the type of person who tends to go into a cave of isolation and disconnect from friends and family to process a troubling situation. So, my sister and I decided to travel to support him and my niece, but we agreed I would go first.

Before my trip, we prayed with my Life Group for God's protection and healing in my brother's life and circumstances. I was filled with an abundance of peace and confidence when I left for Europe.

When I arrived in Paris, I felt like my luggage was lighter than it was before. Then, I noticed I didn't have my laptop with me. I quickly ran

to the airline counter and asked if a laptop had been found on the plane or in the terminal back in Chicago, where I had my layover. "No," replied the woman at the counter. However, I left my contact information in case they found it.

You can imagine the thoughts running through my mind in today's digital age. I was concerned about my privacy and work information being compromised. I was walking up and down the airport, muttering, "Help me, help me. Lord, help me." At that same time, I opened my handbag to grab my phone so I could call my brother, but I couldn't find the travel purse where I had put my passport, credit cards, and money. Those items were missing too. My losses were happening back-to-back.

Tears were streaming down my face because I didn't know what was happening. Here I was in another country with nothing to prove my iden-



“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world.

***BE COURAGEOUS!  
I HAVE CONQUERED  
THE WORLD.”***

JOHN 16:33



tity. Have you ever been in a place where you asked God, “Can we press pause for a moment? Because I feel like I am caught in a whirlwind.” That was me.

Despite all these things happening, and even though my mind was conveying a different message, I had inner peace because I was reminded of the Scripture where Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world” (John 16:33).

I left the airport and went to the police station where the agent documented the losses and handed me the paperwork with my name and

contact information, including a synopsis of the events. For the time being, my claim could serve as my ID.

I headed to the train station to catch a ride to my brother’s home, but I didn’t buy a ticket because I didn’t have the money. On the train, fatigue took over and I fell asleep. All of a sudden, I heard people talking at the back of the train and asking passengers for their tickets. I told myself, “I will show them my claim and this will settle the matter.” When they got to my seat, I explained why I didn’t have a ticket and instead of being empathetic, the ticket collectors handed me a fee of \$110 to pay.

The next day, I decided to go on a fast,



because fasting helps me surrender and focus more on God. I wanted to hear from Him in the reading of Scripture and prayer. On the fifth day of my visit, I got an email from the airline updating me about my laptop. Somebody had found it and turned it into lost and found. This was a miracle! Thank you, Jesus.

Then, on the last day of my fast, I got another call from the police informing me that my travel purse had been recovered in the lost and found at the airport. No other details were given to indicate whether or not all the items were in my purse, but when I picked it up, everything was inside. I was thrilled! Another miracle! Only God could orchestrate such miracles. At that

moment, I was reminded of His love and faithfulness.

The amazing part of this story is that my brother and niece were encouraging and praying for me during my entire ordeal. It helped them to take the focus off themselves and their circumstances to support me during this time. In a nutshell, this adventure became a catalyst to begin the healing of their own hurt.

Whatever you are facing today, one thing I do know is that Jesus is faithful. ●





## ROOTED

**Rooted is a 10-week small group experience designed to connect you to God, the church, and your purpose.**

Together, in a group of 10-15 people from all walks of life, you'll explore the Bible, engage in prayer and serve experiences, share stories, and practice rhythms essential to a healthy spiritual life.

