

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The purpose of this study of the miracles of Christ is to increase our faith in Jesus, who is the Son of God, our Savior, according to John 20:30-31:
³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- B. In the previous lesson, we considered the miracles in which the Lord healed persons afflicted with blindness. Now we will consider the records of Christ healing others who suffered from paralysis.
 1. Some instances of the Lord healing paralytics are mentioned only in passing, such as in Matthew 4:24 – The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.
 2. Presently, let us consider three passages that give detailed descriptions of how the Lord healed persons with paralysis.

II. HEALING PARALYSIS

- A. In the town of Capernaum, Jesus healed a centurion's slave of paralysis (Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10).
 1. The Lord healed this man without even seeing him.
 - a. Luke records that the centurion sent messengers (first some Jewish elders, next some friends) to Jesus, but Matthew records only the messages communicated from the centurion to the Lord. There is no conflict, but rather Luke simply provides more detail.
 - b. Matthew 8:6 describes the slave as "lying paralyzed at home, suffering great pain." Luke 7:2 says that he was sick and about to die.
 - c. Without even entering the house where the slave lay, Jesus healed him at the instant He said to the Centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed."
 2. The great lesson of this event concerns the tremendous faith of the centurion.
 - a. This Roman man was well-respected, for the Jewish elders said that he was worthy, that he loved their nation, and that he had built the synagogue in Capernaum (Luke 7:4-5).
 - b. However, the centurion believed he was unworthy to receive Jesus and expressed his faith in Jesus' power to heal his slave without even coming into the house. Notice Matthew 8:8-9:
⁸But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."
¹⁰Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. ¹¹I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹²but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - c. Jesus marveled at this man's faith and contrasted him to the faithless Jews. Notice Matthew 8:10-12:
¹⁰Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. ¹¹I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; ¹²but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 3. Do we have such faith as this centurion? Let us learn from this example to believe in the power of Jesus and His word.
- B. Again at Capernaum, Jesus healed a paralytic man and forgave his sins after his friends made an extraordinary effort (Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26).
 1. The first exercise of Christ's power toward this man was in the forgiveness of his sins.
 - a. Four men brought their paralytic friend to see Jesus, but they could not reach Him because the house where He was teaching was so crowded. Therefore, they removed some roof tiles and lowered their friend on a pallet into the house from above.
 - b. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5).

- c. The Pharisees and scribes who were present were offended at Him and thought He had committed blasphemy. They thought, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” They were wrong about the blasphemy but right about who could forgive sins.
 2. To give a visible demonstration of His power, Jesus then healed the man of his paralysis.
 - a. Consider Matthew 9:4-6:
⁴And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, and walk’? ⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”
 - b. The paralyzed man immediately got up, took up his bed, and went home, glorifying God.
 - c. The multitude was amazed “and glorified God, who had given such authority to men” (Matt. 9:8). Indeed, Jesus had both the authority to heal and to forgive sins, for He was the Son of God.
 3. Do we recognize the great authority of Jesus? This same Jesus is both Lord and Christ, and He now sits on the throne of David at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33-36).
 - a. Consider this: Which is easier, to say, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16), or to be raised from the dead?
 - b. The great things done by Christ and seen by men (the miracles, His resurrection) are proof of the great things done by Christ and *not* seen by men (forgiveness, salvation).
- C. At Jerusalem, Jesus healed a paralytic by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-16).
 1. This man was seeking healing along with a multitude of sick persons gathered at the pool of Bethesda.
 - a. An angel of the Lord would occasionally stir the waters of this pool, and the first person in the waters would then be healed.
 - b. A particular man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. His words indicate his paralysis or inability to walk. The length of his illness adds to the potency and veracity of the miracle.
 - c. This man was unable to be the first in the water because of his paralysis and the lack of anyone to help him.
 2. Jesus healed the man and set off a controversy among the Jews because it was a Sabbath.
 - a. Jesus merely commanded him to arise, take up his pallet, and walk. Immediately, he was able to do so because of the power of Christ’s word.
 - b. When the Jews saw him carrying his pallet, they accused him of breaking the Sabbath.
 - c. Later at the temple, Jesus found the cured man again and told him, “Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you” (John 5:14).
 - d. When the cured man told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him and told him to take up his pallet, they began persecuting the Lord because they perceived that He had broken the Sabbath.
 3. Once Christ has forgiven us, are we content to sin no more so that nothing worse will befall us?
 - a. How many years did we spend marred in the misery of sin, only to be forgiven at the word of Jesus? Would we sin again and spite the one who died for us and graciously granted our forgiveness?
 - b. Consider Hebrews 10:26-29:
²⁶For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

III. CONCLUSION

- A. May the records of these miracles have their intended effect on us, which is to build up our faith that we may know we have eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. In the next lesson, we will consider more of Christ’s healing miracles.