



"THE WHOLE CITY WAS GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE DOOR"

MARK 1:27-34

Jesus banishes sickness, leprosy, and demon-possession from His kingdom;

MATTHEW 9:35

³⁵ And Jesus went *throughout all the cities and villages*, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom *and healing every disease and every affliction*.

MARK 6:56

⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him *that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well*.

The Word is recognized as the authority behind both the teaching and the exorcism;

LUKE 4:36

³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? *For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!*"

What does it mean that the people recognized Jesus' authority over demons *through* hearing His authoritative teaching?

They tell Jesus about it;

1 PETER 5:7

⁷ *...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

⁶ *...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

The divine accessibility of Jesus;

HEBREWS 7:25

²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since *he always lives to make intercession for them*.

Jesus' healings make it as if the illness never was;

ACTS 3:8

⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

In what ways does Jesus differ from the "faith healers" of today?

The connection between mercy and service;

ROMANS 12:1

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual worship*.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works*, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

MATTHEW 10:42

⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

JAMES 2:15-17

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

In what ways has our society degraded domestic service over the last generations? What does this reveal about the worldview of society?

The sick and demon-possessed are brought to Jesus;

MARK 2:3

³ And they came, *bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.*

Jesus becomes not only the sin of the people, but the sickness and illness of the people;

MATTHEW 8:16-17

¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Have you considered that Jesus not only became your sin, but He bore your infirmity? The degree to which Christ identifies with His people is truly stunning.

The limitless compassion of Jesus;

LUKE 4:40

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and *he laid his hands on every one of them* and healed them.

MARK 2:5

⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

MARK 6:34

³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and *he had compassion on them*, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

LUKE 7:34

³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, *a friend of tax collectors and sinners!*'

"It is impossible for the affectionate heart of Christ to be over celebrated, made too much of, [or] exaggerated."—Dane Ortland, *Gentle and Lowly*

How can meditating on the compassionate nature of Christ change your perspective of God, and of life? The compassionate nature of Christ in no way detracts from His other attributes of perfection, such as His justice, wisdom, and power. How does this come together to help us understand our Messiah?

Jesus again commands the silence of demons. The confession of demons is;

1. Contrary to God's **design** of revealing Himself

MATTHEW 16:17

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! *For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

2. Contrary to God's **timetable** of revealing Himself

JOHN 6:15

¹⁵ Perceiving then that *they were about to come and take him by force to make him king*, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

3. Contrary to God's **method** of revealing Himself

PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.