



FALLING AT HIS FEET

Today we're going to focus on the subject of healing. Anyone here ever performed surgery on someone? Or carried out a medical procedure of some kind? If you have, my guess is you probably had to do a bit more than read a book, watch a YouTube video, or play a game of *Operation* first. Why?

Simply put: a surgeon needs to know what they're doing.

The same is true of the healing that Jesus brings. Now this can be a tricky subject: people can assume all sorts of things by it, and sometimes healing doesn't happen in the way we might expect. But today we're going to look at what the Bible means by it, and how we can *all* know it.

Let's begin with a 2-for-the-price-of-1 story:

Mark 5:21-43

When the Bible talks about healing, it's not necessarily talking physical healing (contrary to what some ministries will tell you). The Greek for "heal" here, *sozo*, could be better translated 'save.' As in the Coldplay song *Fix You*, the idea can be interpreted in a variety of ways:

- **Healing of body.**
- **Healing of mind / spirit.**
- **Healing of relationships** (with God and others).

And sometimes there's overlap; sometimes not. But there's an expression that links both the healings in this story: they "fell at Jesus' feet." What does that mean? What does it tell us about Jesus' ability to heal? And what does it tell us about how to know it, for ourselves?

1) It's an act of realisation. When people did this, they were acknowledging certain things about Jesus. I don't think they could have put it into words as such – no-one was writing a doctrinal statement here – but they did put it into action. So, what were they saying?

- **He's King.** I.e. everything belongs to Jesus. Not just this thing we want to be healed of or want to be freed from, but everything about us – everything we have, everything we do, everything we are. He's in charge.
- **He's God** – or God is physically present in Him. And they would have believed that if God can make everything, He can also 'remake' everything; if God can shape us in our mothers' wombs, He can also 're-shape' us.
- **He's Saviour.** In ancient times there was a 'perceived' link between sickness and sin: if something is wrong with your body, then something must be wrong with your heart. I.e. they're saying, "Please make things right."

People can sometimes struggle with this idea of laying their lives at the feet of another (I know I do). We'll even say things like "I don't *kowtow* ('bow down' in Cantonese) to anyone." But when it comes to Jesus, if we don't do this, we will not experience the power of God.

2) It's an act of desperation. In this story there's Jairus, whose little girl is dying; and there's a woman who has had internal haemorrhaging for years, and spent all her money on quack remedies, to no avail.

What do they have in common? They've both run out of options; they're both desperate. Jairus risks his social status by seeking out this itinerant Rabbi from Nazareth. Likewise, the woman risks her social status and reaches out for His prayer-shawl, a big no-no for a woman in Jewish culture. What's the point? We have to get serious with Jesus for Jesus to get serious with us.

Perhaps that's part of the answer as to why we don't see so many miracles in the developed world: we're not desperate enough. We've got wealth and science to fall back on. Now please understand me, I'm not being anti-science here; I'm not telling anyone to stop taking their meds. But what I am saying is: we need to be desperate for God to do something if God is going to do something.

To see a Red Sea miracle, we need a Red Sea situation – sea before us; army behind us; God with us!

3) It's an act of supplication. What is supplication (given that my old phone never seemed to recognise it)? Supplication means 'to ask.' The people in these stories asked – begged – Jesus to act. Jesus said it Himself:

"Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened to you." Falling at Jesus' feet was a way of saying, "Please do this, Lord."

Faith isn't a passive thing – it's active. Sometimes we don't get because we don't ask. And that can be because:

- **We might be too scared.** If it doesn't work, what would that do to our faith? Or someone else's?
- **We might be too proud.** We want to prove that we can get through this, to ourselves or other people.
- **We might be too comfortable.** We've got used to the attention we get from this, and we kind of like it.

That's why Jesus sometimes asked, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Which might seem a ridiculous question, especially from someone who's supposed to know everything already. But being a cripple can sometimes be a lucrative business, financially and emotionally, and Jesus is saying, "That is going to change."

In a nutshell, if we want God to do something, we need to actually *ask*.

The Great Physician

So, to 'fall at Jesus' feet' was an act of realisation, desperation, and supplication. Because, as I said at the beginning, to get genuine medical help you need to seek out someone who knows what they're doing – years of study, training, experience, etc. When people fell at the feet of Jesus, they were acknowledging that here is One who knows what He's doing. Better than anyone.

Now this might sound like something of a disclaimer, but it needs to be said: Jesus doesn't heal everyone, of everything, every time. Not because we haven't got enough faith, or our hearts aren't in the right place. Sometimes it's just not His plan for us. Hence the words "If You are willing" – a very important statement, by the way. But if Jesus doesn't heal the sickness, there's going to be another way in which God brings good out of this.

There's one thing we can all know healing from – our sin, our rebellion against God. From the effect it has on us, and the effect it has on others, through us.

But to know that healing, we have to fall at the feet of Jesus.

Because only *He* can make us *truly* whole (Isaiah 53:4-5).