

Sermon Reflections

Jesus vs. Disease Matthew 8:1-17

Summary: Our sin has broken us, ravaging our world and bodies. But, King Jesus brings hope in His willingness, power, and authority to deal with sin and all its consequences.

Hope in Our Brokenness

1. Feeling like an Outcast? Find Hope in Christ's Willingness (vv. 1-4)

- Jesus was immediately willing to heal the leper who boldly approached Him. And not only did He heal the man, but He was willing to *touch* the leper in the process. What do we learn about the love of Christ in His willing readiness to save? What do we learn about the power of Christ?
- Should a right understanding of Jesus' willingness to clean and save impact our evangelism? How should this shape our gospel message to the world? How should this impact with whom we share the gospel? Is any outcast so unclean that Christ will not save?

2. Feeling like an Outsider? Find Confidence in Christ's Authority (vv. 5-13)

- The centurion recognized that Jesus had the ultimate authority over creation, and that physical healing did not even require Jesus' physical presence. What are some areas of life in which we forget that Christ is the ultimate authority? Where in your own life do you need to bow to the authority of Christ and His Word more fully?
- The Jews thought they belonged in the kingdom of heaven because of their ancestry. Yet Jesus makes it clear that the believing Gentile has a place in the kingdom of heaven, while the unbelieving Jew does not. Do you have faith like the centurion? Do you ever try to base your standing with God on something other than faith? How can we strengthen our faith?

3. Feeling Overlooked? Find Solace in Christ's Attentiveness (vv. 14-15)

- Jesus was attentive to notice Peter's mother-in-law sick and immediately healed her. Should we imitate Christ in our attentiveness to the needs of those around us? Knowing that God has prepared good works for believers in advance (Ephesians 2:10), what are some ways you can be more attentive to these opportunities?

4. Feeling Overburdened? Find Promise in Christ's Purpose (vv. 16-17)

- Matthew helpfully directs us to Isaiah (53) to show us that Christ's immense power over disease represents His even greater power to rescue from sin. Read Isaiah 53. According to Isaiah, what are some of the painful things Christ endured in saving us? What are some of the benefits Christ's sacrifice provided for us? Rejoice in the Christ who heals and cleans from sin.