The Power of Grace Part 3

Silver & Gold | Jordan Biel | 04.18.2021

What do I want them to know? Jesus has the answer they need more than the healing you want. What do I want them to feel? Repentant for their sin. Thankful for Jesus. Believing in His power to heal. What do I want them to do? Submit their lives to Jesus and trust HIM for resurrection power over death.

2 weeks ago on Easter Sunday we said that The power of grace is that Jesus death on the cross gives us access to holy God and that his power over death becomes our power over death.

Last week we said...

The power of grace is that YOU are never forgotten.

God's presence is in YOU and is available to every broken, hurting person that comes across your path! The power of grace is that God turns your life into a tabernacle - a meeting place for God to meet man and reconcile!

If I could put this in a question form to make it a bit more applicable ... Who is it that you are reaching out to? Who is hurting that you are befriending - touching - having a meal with?"

What if YOU are the church? What if instead of you inviting someone to church, God was inviting someone to you... because YOU are the church. YOU are where people can meet God. YOU are a city on a hill Jesus said. YOU are a light in the darkness Jesus said. YOU have JESUS within you and YOU have a testimony. YOU have the presence of God living with you.

Jesus brought "church" to people wherever they were; that's the power of grace. His grace to heal was available at all times. His grace to befriend the sinner was constant.

We see

Jesus was anointed to not just to preach, to heal, but to bring emotional restoration. We are His anointed ones - WE are anointed by the same Holy Spirit to do the same thing.

We find Jesus making friends with ANYONE, even known thieves! In the midst of Jesus beginning His ministry and recruiting a team - the group we call "the disciples" He chooses someone that we would likely not choose. Turn to

Luke 5:27

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.

³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." ESV

HOOK TODAY: The power of grace is that Jesus heals more than our body.

Jesus wanted to heal the heart of Levi who though that his identity and sense of joy came in two ways: His power through position and his power through having wealth.

Many of us make that same mistake. We think, like Levi the tax collector, that money, that status, that power will make us happy - will help us find what we're looking for. When Jesus comes on the scene He confronts someone with money, someone with power, someone with prestige among the Romans and yet offers him something that he could not find elsewhere.

Jesus knows that's what we need most is to be forgiven of our sin and renewed into a new person. Levi was still faced with a sense of emptiness despite his accumulation of wealth and position.

Last week we said over and over is that the power of grace is that you are never forgotten. The woman with the 12 year issue of blood was not forgotten. The leper begging for food and affirmation was not forgotten. The demon-posessed man was not forgotten by Jesus. Simon Peter's mother was not forgotten. Jesus knows your name and knows your pain and He is here to bring healing!

Maybe you're like Levi and you actually don't have physical pain or demonic torment but yet you KNOW you're missing something. You don't understand why the money you have only brings a temporary happiness - a joy that soon fades.

Jesus knows that what we need most is to be renewed into a new person and given friendship with Him. That's what Jesus offers, and it's more valuable than silver and gold.

Today we're going to look at a few more moments where Jesus brought the power of grace and we're only into chapter 5 of Luke! We'll also take 10

minutes of looking at the Old Covenant also and the pictures of grace like we have the last two weeks.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹⁷ On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd,

they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?

²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Lk 5:17–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Can you imagine this scene!?!?

Jesus is teaching.

It's like what we call "church service"

Suddenly a man is lowered through the roof! This man and more-so, his friends, were desperate for him to receive a miracle!

Jesus met him at his greatest need first. He first said ... "Son, your sins are forgiven." Our greatest need is never temporary - never a healing of our body - never a financial miracle. Our greatest need is the renewal of our heart. Miracles give us hope for the present.

It's interesting that Jesus said "I did this miracle so "that you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" Other translations read like this Jesus says "I'll prove to you that I have authority to forgiven sins." The miracle of his body on the outside is proof of his ability to heal the inside.

Jesus knows that what we need most is to be renewed into a new person and given friendship with Him. That's what Jesus offers, and it's more valuable than silver and gold.

OLD TESTAMENT PICTURE OF GOD"S desire / ability to heal heart and body ...

Tabernacle ...

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HOOK: The power of grace is that God is able to heal our hearts and our bodies.

Religion is NOT Jesus. Don't confuse the two.

Yes, we can by definition say that being a Christian is being "religious" but by all definitions of Jesus, He was far from religious.

The religion at the time of Jesus required one to ignore the lost and hurting on their way to fulfilling their duty.

Religion meant committing oneself to God and earning your stripes through daily and weekly rituals thereby achieving your righteousness through good works.

Jesus invites us into a friendship with God by simply admitting our sin and asking HIM for healing and restoration.

A Man with a Withered Hand

⁶ On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here."

And he rose and stood there. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹ But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus." ESV

The church leaders were MAD that this guy was healed!

Religion will blind you to the blind. On your way to obeying the letter of "the law" you can miss the law of love - what Jesus called "the most important law of all."

The power of grace is that Jesus heals more than our body.

I remember last August when a young man was insisting I enforce masks and "be a better leader" He repeated "This IS the law. You can't ignore it." I responded to him as I had many times before "The president who is over the governor has made it clear that masks are not mandated and it's up to the citizen to decide - even the governor of Ohio had used that same verbiage. I reminded him that if I start adding requirements to entering this building that arena't proven scientifically to stop all disease including covid, that I would be inhibiting people from coming to Jesus. Jesus would TOUCH the leper." He emphatically repeated "You're disobeying the law and leading everyone in this church into sin!"

That's when I asked him "Who is your neighbor?"

He said "what?"

I said "Who lives in the house next to yours? What is their name and what is their biggest concern right now?"

He had no answer. Just silence

I then asked "What is the name of a waitress or waiter at a restaurant in champion where you live - someone you've prayed with while they were at your table?"

Again. More silence.

I asked "Who is the last person you prayed with anywhere outside of this church building - the gym, the grocery story, your neighbor ...?"

Again ... nothing.

I told him "Here's your problem. You are so concerned about "the law" and yet you've missed the most important law in the entire Bible. Jesus said... "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.' You don't even know your neighbor. In your effort to "obey the law" you're making it difficult for people to come to God. That's the same problem the Pharisees had."

This is when I think it finally sunk in to this young man - at least I'm hoping it did. That was one of many conversations with this young man that for some reason he simply wasn't open to learning.

You see ... That's what the religious did - they made such a huge deal out of one little law they would completely ignore the hurting person who needed healed. They would get their mind fixated on a law like "not eating wheat on the sabbath" "not doing any work on the sabbath" so much so that they were angered when someone was HEALED on the sabbath because it was "work" to them!

CRAZY!

The religious and contentious are always more concerned with *looking* more righteous than others. The truly righteous are always most concerned with showing compassion.

Think of Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan. He made it clear in that story that (DONT" ASSUME they know the story, Jordan)

What do we really believe? Do you believe in Jesus power over the laws of nature? If you do then you're a Christian. If you don't then you're not. A Christ follower believes Christ to be all powerful and yet all sovereign. A Christ follower knows that every time Jesus enter the city he did the miraculous and healed the sick and there was only a few times when he didn't do that and it's noted that the people there simply didn't want to believe that Jesus could. Jesus alleviate pain at every possible turn.

Why do the miracles of Jesus always relieve suffering? Because these miracle point us to the future where Jesus has created a place where well be where there is no suffering! No pain. No poverty. No injustice. Miracles point us to the future

Suffering and sickness is hated by God just as much as we hate it.

I love how Tim Keller put it ... Miracles are not a suspension of the natural law, but rather a return to the natural law - the way God's natural order works."

Jesus spoke by the power of HIS WORD He upholds all things.

So even the "natural law" is a result of a miracle of Jesus - the WORDS of Jesus!

Another scholar put it this way...

Jesus healings are the only natural things in a world that is unnatural, polluted, and demonized... this world is falling apart."

The miracles of Jesus are a restoration of what was normal.

The miracles of Jesus show you that God is an enemy of suffering. He alleviates it! This gives us not only hope for today that Jesus can heal us internally, but hope for tomorrow, that Jesus restores all things to perfection one day.

Acts 2:42

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ^{...}
Many more were saved daily ...

CH. 3 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

- ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
- ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

So let's pause for a moment to really dial in on what happened here. Jesus had risen from the dead - appeared to them a few times actually - then ascended into heaven while they watched Him from the Mount of Olives.

The disciples now are charged by Jesus to go do the very things they saw Him do. Preach the Kingdom of God, the message of Jesus & pray for the sick to be healed.

So they do that. They begin preaching. They're meeting in homes to discuss what God has been doing, the miracles, what Jesus is teaching them, no doubt telling stories of times when they were with Jesus - this is what we call Life Groups here at Rock of Grace.

They met in homes and throughout the week, the disciples (now called Apostles) went town to town preaching about Jesus and healing the sick. They were doing what Jesus said to do.

So then we hear about a specific account.

Peter and John are entering Solomon's temple - it's ornate - it's lavish - it's perfect - it's decorated to the hilt - and there's a gate there literally named "Beautiful"

Similar to our other story in Luke 5, a paralyzed man is carried on a mat to the temple. Peter and John see this man carried on a mat.

No doubt their mind goes to that memory only 3 years early when they were in a man's house listening to Jesus teach when suddenly a lame man, carried by his friends, was lowered on a mat through the roof.

What did Jesus do?" They thought.

They remembered!

Jesus told the man "Son, your sins are forgiven."

They remembered that Ultimately Jesus focused more on the inside of a person - on the heart - the repentance of sin - than He focused on the outside - on the healing of the body.

They too, believed that Jesus could heal this lame person if HE would only believe in Jesus. Right?

Let's read it again.

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

Notice how Peter says "I don't have what you're looking for."

This man is looking for a temporary solution - silver and gold. He feels he will finally be happy if he is healed and is able to earn a living. What Peter and John know is what Jesus taught them - that what a person really needs is not more money, not the dignity of a job and a good position at work, not even a healing! What a man really needs is to be forgiven of his sin and to look upon Jesus for total renewal!

How do we know this? Two ways.

First Peter tells them "in the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk." He told the lame man to trust in JESUS.

Secondly...

Look at what Peter says to the crowd standing by!

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers,

glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—

has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²² Moses said,

'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Peter's sermon to them, if given a title, would be titled "Repent! Look to Jesus!"

Peter's sermon is NOT about the miracle of the man being healed; it's about repenting of sin by looking to Jesus. But the miracle does serve as sign that Jesus DOES HAVE authority over all things.

Jesus knows that what we need most is to be renewed into a new person and given friendship with Him. That's what Jesus offers, and it's more valuable than silver and gold. Miracles gives us hope for the present AND hope for the future. The temporary miracles are a sign of an eternal way of living.

2:21 Jesus must remain in heaven before he comes back to restore everything Let's read it again

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that <u>your sins may be blotted out</u>, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." That's the ESV - Let's read another translation quickly The New Living Translation:

¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰ Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.NLT

Why does Peter say this? Why does he say that "Jesus must remain in heaven until the final restoration of all things as God has promised." Why say this? Peter is stating that ...

Miracles in the present give us hope for the future! They're a glimpse of God's heaven to come!

When God changes the natural law of things - when God breaks through the curtain of the 7 ozones or however many zones there are - when He reaches in and heals someone - when He changes the law He FIRST made which causes your body to heal itself in most cases which is already remarkable when you think about it - when He changes that - when He responds to the faith of one of His children - when he reaches in and brings about a healing that is INSTANTaneous, it's not only to bring you some pain - relief. It is to make you aware that there is a reality unknown to you - a place where there IS no pain - a place designed by Him, a place where all songs are sung to Him, a place where there is no cancer, no sickness, no covid-19, no lung disease, no broken bones, no tumors, NO sickness!

When Jesus walked the earth, He brought healing to hurting people to not only given them pain relief, but also to give people faith to believe that He has ALL power over ALL problems and that He has a place where there is no pain or problems. If I could make it rhyme to make it stick...

Jesus brought pain relief to give reason for belief. Jesus then empowered the disciples to bring that same healing to hurting people

<u>not</u> so they can look powerful, or spiritual, not so they can have a tv show, but so that those who are healed can put their faith ALL their faith, in JESUS - the one who delivers them from the REAL problem - that is the sin within their hearts.

Levi's money wasn't really what he wanted. He wanted the love of Jesus. The

Let's take it one step further.

Jesus now empowers us to bring healing to hurting people to make them also aware of their need for God to heal their hearts - to forgive their sin.

This man who was healed who began leaping in the temple is a fulfillment of a prophesy from **Isaiah 35:5-6**

⁵ And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. ⁶ The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! NLT

The lame will leap for joy!

JESUS was inside of the disciples.

JESUS' POWER to heal the lame man was within the disciples.

When He comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ear of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer!"

Peter and John were filled with the power of Jesus that prompted them to pray for and believe the lame man could walk.

Do you believe in that power?

If you believe in God, it's totally illogical not to believe in miracles

Everything about Christianity is a miracle. EVERYTHING.

The red sea splitting.

The virgin birth.

The empty tomb.

The ascension of Jesus through the clouds back to His father in Heaven.

This is wild, supernatural stuff.

This is all done to redeem a sinful, prideful, jealous, stubborn people!

This is the power of Grace! The power of grace is that Jesus

MODERN Story TODAY of real suffering. Knowledge that hope of Heaven.

I have a friend named Bob Thoma. Some of you know him.

He was our sound man for while years ago and he's literally one of the sweetest guys you will ever meet.

I am believing Jesus to heal him. I am standing on the word of God and the promises of God that Bob will be healed here on earth.

But here's what I know, if he isn't healed here, I have nothing to worry because I know what Jesus taught me, Bob will be healed *there*.

Jesus wants to relieve Bob of his pain, absolutely. We see Jesus have true empathy with people who are ill as we read the Gospels. God does care. But what God cares MOST about is our hearts.

So my heart is full of joy when I think of Bob Thoma.

Why? I know that Bob will soon be healed - here or there.

He will have new legs here or there.

He will have the energy of a 20 year old here or there.

His body will be cancer-free here on earth through divine healing OR there in heaven through being given his new eternal body.

This is why I rejoice!

This is the message of Jesus!

JESUS brings healing! Jesus restored the heart of Bob to be like HIS heart.

Bob is one of the most Christ-like, generous people you'll ever meet.

Jesus made Bob that kind and that Christ-like. WOW!

Miracles are simply a picture into the power of God - a glimpse into what will come in the new Heavens and new earth.

This is similar to the miracle of the leprosy miracle we discussed last week. The leprosy of SIN is what Jesus was most concerned with

Jesus is more concerned with the lasting instead of the temporary.

The religious leaders of the day always had such a difficulty with Jesus power to heal. Why? Maybe because it displayed not only power but grace and empathy that they lacked.

They seem to get really angry whenever Jesus would heal. I'm re-reading the Gospels this month in preparing for this series where we're looking at these moments and it's like every time the religious elite are ANGERED by Jesus' display of compassion.

Mainly because I think they were upset that Jesus was taking their followers. Now HE was the star of the show - not them.

The power of grace is that you are never forgotten and that Jesus can heal you body, soul & spirit. But you have to perceive that you need Him. You have to admit your weakness. That's the whole exchange with Jesus. The woman with the issue of blood we discussed last week - she knelt down, show bowed, she displayed her weakness and in doing so, Jesus had power leave Him and it enter her.

"How many sit under the world Mathrew Henry

Let's ask the Lord to prick our hearts today to ensure that WE are not becoming the religious elite - satisfied only in our traditions and customs that can sometimes just cause more separations between holy God and His beloved creation. Let's ask the Lord to make us like the Lord - to bring church wherever we go - to see those who are hurting and say "silver and gold, I don't have but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus, be healed!"

If you want to begin moving in miracles, be warned though the religious, murderous spirit will come for you. The second Jesus healed people, from that MOMENT, the religious leaders started making plans to kill him. Peter and John did a miracle instantly the religious leaders threw them in jail.

Kinda funny - we read in Acts 5 that an angel broke them out of jail and they were preaching again about Jesus in the temple the next morning. Guards showed up to their cell totally confused because it was all still locked up.

If you want to begin moving in miracles, be warned, the religious will come for you. I've certainly had it happen to me.

The same Holy Spirit who anointed Jesus when we He began ministering is the same Holy Spirit promised to you. That's the power of grace. We don't deserve grace and we don't deserve the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us for the care of others. But God is just that kind! His power, His grace is designed to flow through you! Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe in miracles? Do you believe in the power of grace?

"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:14-17 ESV

Again, these miracles we read about - Miracles gives us hope for today - if God can heal my body, God can heal my heart. These miracles also give us hope for our future. If God has the power to renew a broken body miraculously, then His promise of a perfect heaven with no brokenness within it, is assured! That's the power of grace!

You may run into people who are in financial stress like the man dropped off at the Gate Beautiful.

You can look at them and like Peter, say "Look at me. Listen to me. I don't have silver and gold to give you and that's not what you really need or what you really want anyway. What you DO need is Jesus. And I have Jesus! Can I pray with you? Can I tell you about Jesus?

You may run into people like Levi the tax collector who have alot of money - You can look at them and like Peter, say "Look at me. Listen to me. I don't have silver and gold to give you and that's not what you really need or what you really want anyway. All the money in the world isn't going to give you peace on the inside. All the money in the world won't rid you of the demons that cause you to fear and lose sleep! What you DO need is Jesus. And I have Jesus! Can I pray with you? Can I tell you about Jesus?

You may run into people like the lame man dropped through the roof that day. You can look at them and say "Jesus has the power to heal you and I want to pray for you BUT, that's not what you *really* need or what you really want. What you DO need is a renewal of your heart. What you *really* need is Jesus. And I have Jesus! Can I pray with you? Can I tell you about Jesus?

You may run into very religious people - people who look down upon others - people who constantly point out the mistakes of others - people who have very religious habits but are far from lacking the compassion and love of Jesus. You can look at them and say "Silver and gold, I don't have - but that's not what you really need anyway. What you DO need is Jesus. And I have Jesus! Not religion. Jesus! Can I pray with you? Can I tell you about Jesus?