

The Healer's Rebuke

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 4:38-41



Big Idea

Christ doesn't wait around in the synagogue for us to come to Him. He moves out in pursuit of us. He enters our cluttered homes. He lays His hands on our diseases.

A Private Residence (vv. 38-39)

Three things in particular struck me about Christ's healing at this point:

- (1) **The *Immediacy* of the Healing**
- (2) **The *Fullness* of the Healing**
- (3) **The *Order* of the Healing**

(2) A Personal Touch (v. 40)

With the laying of hands we get a sense of His solidarity with the suffering individual. We get a sense of His deep and abiding compassion. The healing is certainly an exchange that moves from the Savior to the individual. His power goes out and restores and renews the sick. But there is an exchange in the opposite direction as well that we might not initially see. It doesn't become clear until the cross, but the sickness, the uncleanness from the individual is, in some mysterious way, being taken by Him. Jesus will do more in the end than lay His hands on sick men, He will let sick men lay their hands on Him, tie Him up, and kill Him. And all this, so that by "His wounds we [might be] healed" (Isa 53:5).

With Luke's mention of "every one of them" being healed are we not left to face the question that often haunts us in our suffering: "What about me? Why does it feel like He's leaving me in my pain? If Jesus heals every one of them, why doesn't He heal me?" We come to find that while He often gives the miracle to initiate and awaken faith, He often withholds the miracle to deepen and refine that faith. He is always healing, but only sometimes does this involve immediate, miraculously healing.

(3) A Perplexing Rebuke (v. 41)

Jesus knows that a Christ without a cross is no Christ at all. It would do us no good to be liberated from Rome but left under the oppression of the devil and the wrath of God against our sin. So He silences the demons because they would have Him shortcut His mission: "Let the Jews make you King now, Christ." "Silence! I have come to die for sinners and be raised for their healing. The cross must come before the crown!"

Reflection Questions



- How are you living out your royal priesthood? Do you have people you're pleading to the Lord for? Do you have people you are carrying to Jesus? Explain.
- How is the gospel put on display in the healing of Peter's mother-in-law? How does this miracle strike against our legalistic leanings? How have you seen the same order of events (sickness-salvation-service) play out in your life?
- How will Jesus' example of laying hands on the sick and diseased change the way you approach your relatives at Thanksgiving?
- Why does Jesus sometimes give and sometimes withhold the miracle? What other Scripture verses support your understanding? How have you experienced this personally?