

## Not a Drudgery but a Miracle

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And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole

city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons (Mark 1:29-39)

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Illness is one among the most difficult traits of human existence. It comes unexpectedly, causing physical pains, fear and even despair. In such moments, we cry with Job, "I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me" (Job 7:3). In such moments, we ask: "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery" (Job 7:1)? We try all possible means to get well. We resort to expensive medications, alternative treatment, faith healers, and even magic. Yet, when it does not work we accept the inevitable: "I will not see happiness again" (Job 7:7).

### Jesus Heals Many

That Sabbath was a busy day. After the morning exorcism, the Lord went to the house of Simon and Andrew. There, he cured Simon's mother-in-law. In the evening, people "brought to him all who were sick and oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons" (Mark 1:32-34).

Miracles were part of Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God. The ill experienced the presence of God. Oppression and suffering gave way to God's Kingdom. The same reality was present in the first Christian communities. The proclamation of Jesus Christ, as the Lord and Savior, was accompanied by

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signs and wonders. Peter restored to health a crippled beggar and a bedridden Aeneas. Paul made well a crippled man in Lystra and raised Eutychus from the dead at Troas. Their message and preaching “we were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

Salvation is not confined to the realm of spirituality. God saves entire person, not just our inner being. Our Savior once asked:

“Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’” (Mark 2:9)?

Then, he answered with a miracle. The paralytic walked. The Bible speaks about of unity of spirit, soul and body. When someone is restored back to health, God’s kingdom breaks into this person’s life.

### Healing Today

An African, diagnosed with a leg infection came to a missionary. According to the doctor in a clinic, the leg should be amputated in order to save his life. He begged the missionary: “Can you do pray for me? How can I live without a leg”. For half a year, they prayed together and at the same time used all possible means to heal the leg. At the end there was no need for amputation. It also brought many people from his tribe to Christian faith.

There is a need for the Church to rediscover this aspect of the Good News. We have three sacraments allowing us to experience God’s kingdom in our lives. The sacrament of reconciliation is a remedy for our troubled conscience. The anointing of the sick is a remedy for our infirmities. Then, the Eucharist

restores us to health entirely. We often travel to far places to get well and to be forgiven. We look for the best healers and spend fortunes on the latest medicines and expensive therapies. Yet, it does not occur to us that, not far from our homes in a small church, Jesus awaits us ready to heal for free. Do you believe that He can do it?

We all know the centurion’s prayer:

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed” (Matt 8:8).

Jesus praised his faith and granted his request. Our Redeemer spoke the word healing. What would you like to hear from Jesus? The word of love, forgiveness, healing? Each time, we gather to worship God, He showers us with His grace. We are being recreated. Loved, forgiven and healed, we carry His wholeness-giving word to the world. Let those around us realise that life is not a drudgery but a miracle.

### Conclusion

That Sabbath was a busy day. In the morning, at the synagogue of Capernaum, Jesus preached the Good News and expelled an unclean spirit. Immediately after that service, he cured Simon’s mother-in-law. Finally, in the evening, he “healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons”. For all those men and women life began anew.

Is someone ill in your family? Tell Jesus about them. Do you know any broken, weak, and heavy laden? Take them to Jesus in prayer. Our Savior has the best medicine, his saving grace.

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**May God bless all of you who remember us in prayer and support our ministry here.**

New Life Asia Team