

Jesus and sickness

Luke 8:40-53



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1. The elephant in the room

If Christian faith has nothing to say in the face of death
it has nothing to say

2. Two desperate people

An outcast woman - unclean, unloved
12 years of suffering

“magical” faith

A synagogue ruler - a desperate father
his only daughter is dying

humble uninformed faith

3. Healing

#1 Secret then acknowledged

“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace”

Faith is relational not magical

Relationship with Jesus brings wholeness not just health

#2 The stakes are raised - will death have the last word?

“Don’t be afraid, just believe”

“She is not dead, but asleep”

“My child, get up!”

In the presence of the Prince of Life, death is driven back

4. Did Jesus get sick?

“The word became flesh” - Real flesh and blood

Most sickness is the result of our sin affected world

(not an individual’s sin)

Healing is not permanent

Healing is not the central focus of Jesus’ ministry

Faith does not heal us - Jesus does

Lack of healing is NOT a sign of our lack of faith

Death is NOT spiritual healing - it is our last enemy to be destroyed

Death and sickness are real

5. Jesus’ resurrection means victory over death

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

We live in hope - a hope guaranteed by Jesus’ death and resurrection:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

Revelation 21:1-6.