

but the patient keeps coming back, discontented and sick with greed (see Isa. 55:2). *'Dr DIY'* advocates self-help measures and innate human resources. But the patient keeps falling flat on his face in failure (see Ps. 118:8-9; 1 Cor. 1:17-25). *'Dr Fun'* prescribes plenty of TV entertainment and sport, with lots of drink, drugs and promiscuity. A famous king proved this was useless (see Eccl. 2:1-11). Kings and commoners are still suffering! What is more tragic, *'Dr Ritual'* thinks that 'religion' will cure the patient. But without a true experience of the grace of God in Christ, this only aggravates the disease, promising healing where there is none (see Isa. 29:13). The truth is, these doctors are 'quacks', treating symptoms and not the cause. They didn't study in God's medical school. What is more, it is a case of 'Physician, heal yourself' (Lk. 4:23).

### 3. THE DIVINE DOCTOR

At last, the woman came to '**Dr Jesus**' (v.28)! All others had failed. Here was One who could heal her. What is more, the healing was free! In faith, she touched Christ's robe and was immediately healed (vs. 27-9).

What a glorious picture of the Gospel! Christ alone is '*the Way, the Truth and the Life*' (Jn. 14:6). He is the *only* One whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). As surely as the happy woman 'felt within herself that she was healed', we too experience the saving power of God's grace when we truly turn to Christ in repentance and faith. Pardoned by His blood and renewed by His Spirit, we are saved by *receiving* not *achieving*. It is all of grace, FREE GRACE (Eph. 2:8-10). May we also fall before Jesus, 'in wonder, love and praise' and hear His voice, "Go in peace...be healed."

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# **JESUS HEALS**

"Daughter, your faith has made you well.

Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

(Mark 5:34)

### *Introduction*

When our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom of God (Mk. 1:15), He did so by word and deed, sermon and miracle. His miracles demonstrated God's mighty power and compassion for lost men and women. They declared Christ's glorious deity - He is God incarnate! They are also to be seen as visual aids of His teaching. In this sense, they were signs and not ends in themselves. For those who imagine that miracles are necessary to make the preaching of the Gospel effective, we should remember that many saw Christ's miracles yet remained unconverted (see Jn. 11:45-7; Acts 5:16-17). Such miracles are chiefly

associated in Bible history with periods of revelation, as in the times of Moses, Elijah, our Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles (2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4). It is not necessary to insist on the miraculous today. Besides, the Gospel has been powerful throughout church history without them. Furthermore, it is possible for miraculous claims to be *false* indicators of spiritual life (see Matt. 7:21-3) and even Satanic (see 2 Thess. 2:9).

The chief thing about the Gospel is peace with God. It is about salvation from sin and everlasting damnation not our present physical health. Even those whom Christ raised from death eventually died again. The complete salvation of soul and body is for the world to come not this present world. So Christ's miracles may be seen as pictures of the power of God's saving grace in our souls.

### 1. THE DREADFUL DISEASE

While Jesus was responding to another cry for help, a sad, sick woman joined the crowd of His enthusiastic followers (Mk. 5:21-7).

She had been haemorrhaging continuously for twelve years (v.25), possibly since the birth of a child. She was in a desperate condition when she heard about Jesus. She illustrates the state of the entire human race, helplessly ruined by sin for a long time, in fact ever since mankind's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Indeed, who can deny that sin and its symptoms indicate a spiritual disease on an epidemic scale? Even the 'Black death' or bubonic plague of 14th century Europe or the modern HIV crisis don't compare with this.

No one is exempt from guilt or free from sin's deadly influence and morally crippling effects (see Rom. 3:10, 23). The myth of evolutionary progress flies in the face of the facts. The human patient is as sick as ever (see Mk. 7:20-3; Rom. 1:28-32). The tragedy is that many foolishly believe the false diagnosis of the 18th century Rousseau, "Man is born free, yet everywhere he is in chains" (*The Social Contract*). The truth, as taught by Christ, is that "Man is born in sin, therefore he is in chains" (see Jn. 8:34). However, this is the very slavery

Christ came to liberate us from (see Jn. 8:32, 36) by dying for our sins, paying our spiritual debts and rising again in victory (Rom. 4:25).

### 2. THE DECEITFUL DOCTORS

What did the woman do about her haemorrhage? What has the human race done about the problem? Where have people turned for help? We are told that the woman spent all her money trying to get help from 'many physicians' but was *worse off*, physically as well as financially (v. 26). Likewise, human beings have tried many remedies without success. Consider the 'doctors' we turn to. '*Dr Brains*' prescribes more education, including access to computers and information technology. However, more knowledge leads to more confusion and self-destruct capability (see 2 Tim. 3:7). '*Dr Politics*' insists he can cure us but, despite his promises of social improvement, the cancer of sin remains untouched by his remedies (Isa. 1:21-3). '*Dr Cash*' prescribes more money and a better economy