

Healing Miracles

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Father/Son Outdoor Adventure:
- B. Slide3 Children at Risk: Next Sun. Hearing from Kristi Piatkowski (Dir of Development) from Rancho Damacitas sharing on ways we can be involved w/the kids in their organization.
 1. In Temecula's wine country, Rancho Damacitas consists of **6 family-style cottages** housing up to **36 children** ages 6-18 yrs old, **and a transitional housing program** serving **former foster youth**. Unique **home parent model** coupled with our **therapeutic-based care**, help foster children heal, rebuild, and become empowered.

II. Intro:

- A. Slide4-36 Israel/Turkey Highlights.
- B. Slide37 Title: *Healing Miracles*
 1. Ch.8,9 = **10 Miracles** [Natural (calmed Galilee storm) - Spiritual Authority - Healing]

III. Slide38 THE GADARENE DEMONIACS (8:28-34)

- A. In 1937 G. Campbell Morgan said, *I cannot personally read my newspaper today w/out believing that there are still demon-possessed men in the world.*
 1. **You cannot see the supernatural realm of angels & demons.** **But** we believe in plenty of things we can't physically see. **In this room** there are **words** being spoken & **images** being delivered, **that** if we had *the right receiver* we would be able to hear or see them (**eg.** smartphone, iTunes or Youtube).
- B. **Background in other accounts** -
 1. **Mark** said, They lived in the tombs, couldn't be held w/chains (in the past had pulled apart chains & broke their shackles), they couldn't be tamed, they cried out day & night, & they cut themselves w/stones.
 2. **Luke** said, They had these demons for a long time, they wore no clothes, & they had many demons.
 3. **Mt. adds** - They were exceedingly fierce & no one could pass that way.

- C. **Slide39 Background Geographically** - up north, only place with a steep cliff, has caves.
- D. **Slide40a Here's what Satan will do for a man.**
1. Rob him of sanity, & self-control; fill him w/fears; rob him of the joys of home & friends; & condemn him to an eternity of judgment(if allowed).
- E. **Here's what Society will do for such a man in need.**
1. Try to restrain him & threaten him, but society is unable to change him.
- F. **Slide40b Here's what the Savior can do for a man whose whole life w/in & w/out is in bondage & battle.**
1. **Christ came to them** - Even braved a storm to do it.
 2. **He delivered them** - By the Power of his word.
 3. **He restored them** - To Sanity, Society, & Service.
 4. **He freed him, clothed him, & set him in his right mind.**
 - a) What Jesus did for the 2 demoniacs, He will do for anyone else who needs him.
 - b) Can you still say I don't think He would accept me?
 - c) **Did God go out of His way to Save you?** It was a long way to earth.
 - d) **Did He do anything out of the norm to save you?**
- G. **Slide41 3 Prayers:**
1. **The Demons** besought Jesus to send them into the swine.
 2. **The Citizens** of Gadara begged Him to leave.
 3. **The One Man** besought Him to let him follow.
 - a) Interesting Jesus answers the prayer of the demons, & the pig peddlers of Gadara, **but not** the prayer of the healed man.
 - b) **And then** basically tells him...Christian service starts at **home**.
- H. **Slide42 A demons Statement of Faith:**
1. **Theology** - Talks of God the Father.
 2. **Christology** - Knew God had a Son & He was Him.
 3. **Eschatology** - Knew the reality of the future judgment.
 - a) The demons also believed in *prayer*, knew of Jesus power to send them into the abyss or into the swine.

b) I wonder if **Atheist** are beneath **Demons** on the judgment scale?

I. (31) The Demons even needed permission to enter a pig.

J. (32) Why waste words on Demons? GO!

K. Slide43 Doesn't God care about pigs? Mrk. says there were 2000.

1. Jesus values man more than **pigs**, more than **sheep** (12:12), more than **birds** (6:26)

L. Slide44 (33) Including... - The healing of the 2 demoniacs seemed to be reported as *the secondary matter* here, **but** indeed it was **the central point** of the narrative.

1. To some, men **souls** are secondary to **swine**.

M. (34) A whole city coming out to meet Jesus. A whole city unanimous in their appeal to Him. Their appeal? *depart from us!* :(

1. Jesus indulges man's wishes. He immediately left & didn't return!

a) In Mt.15 the disciples tell Jesus, *do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?* (12) Jesus' response...*Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. Chiling words...Let them alone.*

2. But know the **opposite** can be true. When we desire His presence, He will indulge our wishes.

a) eg. 2 disciples on road to Emmaus. Lk.24:28,29 *By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, Stay the night with us, since it is getting late. So he went home with them.*

b) eg. woman of Samaria (at well). Went back to her city, persuaded her neighbors to come see Him. Jn.4:40 *When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days.*

N. This healed man preached in the **Decapolis** (Mrk.5:20) *though* his city was more into pigs than people.

O. Lessons: Jesus brings **peace** to *stormy situations*, whether on Galilee **or** Gadara. **On the Mediterranean or in Murrieta.**

1. He comes to you this morning...will you receive Him now? **or** send Him away.

2. I think you will see Him as an irksome intruder **or** a blessed intruder. **But** He does desire to intrude...**but** haven't you enjoyed someone who entered your

life though *unwelcome & uninvited* into your life at 1st, that later maybe became *your best friend, or a trusted colleague, or maybe even your spouse?*

IV. Slide45 **SPIRITUAL PARALYSIS (9:1-8)**

- A. Jesus has shown Himself powerful over **sickness & storms**, but what could He do about **sin**?
- B. (1) **His own city** - Back to Capernaum.
- C. (2) **They** - This man could not help himself but he had 4 friends named: *Love, Faith, Hope, & Determination*.
- Slide46 Show **roof tiles** in NT times. 8x8x4' stone [at Chorazin or Bethsaida?]
- D. Slide47a **Their Faith** - **Whose faith?** the 4 friends faith.
- Sometimes Jesus points out **the faith of the patient**. This time, **the friends**. Other times **no faith** was shown, like in Lazarus' case (he was dead).
- E. If your ever told that *your not healed because of your faith...*see how their's faith is :)
- F. Slide47b **Good cheer** - Uhh he couldn't walk yet? **Yes but**, *oh what a feeling when sin is released*. When the **load** is lifted. All the **guilt** gone. And that **heavy weight** falls to the ground.
- Mic 7:18 **Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love.**
 - Jesus brings **good cheer** to the **saddest hearts**.
 - After Jesus said this, did the 4 friends think, *uhh thanks for the kind words buuut, can ya heal him?*
 - Jesus deals w/the **sin** problem 1st, **because** it was **the greatest need**.
 - You can have a perfectly healed & fit **body**, but what's it going to help you in **hell**?
 - The healing of the **heart** was of utmost importance. Do you have a **heart** condition? **A spiritual** paralysis?
- G. Slide47c (3) Mark 2:7 adds **Who can forgive sins but God alone? Exactly!**
- H. Slide47d (4) The Great *Thought Reader* - Judging the thoughts & intents of the heart.
- 1st He, **saw their faith**, now He **knew their thoughts**.
 - He puts His questioners to question, **Why do you think evil in your heart's?**

- a) Let us ponder this one. Don't we think *evil of God* when something goes *wrong* in our lives? Quit thinking evil of God.
- I. Slide47e (5) Which is easier? - *Both* are impossible to man, *both* beyond human power.
1. Which is easier? Well to heal him *physically*, he only had to *speak a Word*. To heal him *spiritually*, He had *to die!*
 2. Thousands have *pretended* to absolve a man from sin...who would *not have* dared to command a disease to disappear.
- J. (7) He not only walked out *physically*, *but* he starts walking his *spiritual walk*.
- K. *To his house* - The Lord still raises many out of the *paralysis of sin* & makes them a *blessing* to others.
- L. Slide47f (8) Note: *they glorified the Father* - Jesus moved in such a way His Father received the glory.
- M. *The multitudes Marveled*(or were afraid) & in words *Glorified God* *yet* only saw Jesus as a man
- N. This former paralyzed man, went home that day, w/a *sound body* & a *heart at peace*.
1. If a *physical paralysis* is defined as *the loss of ability to move & sometimes to feel anything*. *Then*, to be healed from *spiritual paralysis* would mean we can now *move & feel*. Jesus changes not only our *walk* *but also* our very *pathos*, the depth of our heart/*feelings*.
- O. *Wrap up* with a last thought from vs.6...
- P. Slide48 Behold, the great physicians greatest art...*the power to forgive sin*.
1. *Before* the ransom was paid. *Before* His blood sprinkled on the mercy-seat. *He had power to forgive sin*. *How was He able to say this pre-cross?* Because He knew He'd do it. He knew He'd go through w/it...*even the death of the cross?*
 - a) Can I ask the question, what if He didn't go through it...*would this man's paralysis returned and forgiveness only had been temporary...which is no forgiveness at all?*
 - b) But He did not only *go to the cross...but* see Him *risen*. See Him *ascending* in splendor. See Him *sitting* on the rt hand on the throne of God. See Him *pleading* to His eternal Father. See Him *pointing* to the wounds in His hands. See Him *pointing* to the merit of His sacred sacrifice. (adapted from Spurgeon Aug.10)

- c) He has nothing more to do to win our pardon, *it is finished*. He can in answer to your tears, **forgive** your sins today & make you **know it**. He can breathe into your life **peace**. He can make you **well**. He can make you **whole**.