

Aeneas – His Healing – A Picture of Salvation

Acts 9:31-34 – February 7, 2010 – Evening Service

- **Aeneas' _____ Ailment**
Acts 9:32-34

John 14:12

- **Aeneas' _____ Ailment**
Acts 9:34

1ST – His ailment was _____

Romans 2:5

2ND – He had information about _____

I Corinthians 15:3-5

3RD – He had information leading to _____

4TH – Aeneas was _____ restored

5TH – Aeneas was _____ afterwards

Something good to remember:

It was clear to the people present that the miracle was not merely a _____ healing - for people responded by receiving _____ healing.

Wrap Up:

The greatest miracle of all miracles is the miracle of

Aeneas – His Healing – A Picture of Salvation

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Intro: How bad do you have to be to warrant a miracle of God? Strange question isn't it? The vast majority of the miracles of Christ and the apostles ... if not all of them ... were miracles performed on people who were out of options ... people who had lost hope of a cure ... people who were helpless and desperate. On the scene of this desperation comes an evangelist – the Apostle Peter.

Peter has not been on the scene for a while ... but he comes into focus again. Let's read what happened that day ...

➤ **Aeneas' PHYSICAL Ailment**

Acts 9:32-34

Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

9:33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

9:34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up.

We enter a phase of supernatural power for the apostles. Jesus predicted that His disciples would have great power

John 14:12

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

Peter performs the very same kind of miracle Jesus performed. But obviously not in his own power.

Aeneas – a man paralyzed and bedridden eight years ... is immediately healed and begins to walk immediately.

The purpose of miracles

Miracles authenticated both the **MESSENGER** and his **MESSAGE**.

But don't miss this ... miracles are always the *exception* rather than the *rule* in the Bible

Consider how much this miracle would be appreciated by the individual

- ✓ He lived in a state of hopelessness
- ✓ Nothing medically could be done for him
- ✓ Things were not going to get better
- ✓ He had been unable to care for himself
- ✓ There were no such thing as disability insurance or care for the disabled
- ✓ He had no income and poverty was all he knew

The miracle was not performed with thousands watching.

There was no hysteria ... the paralysis was substantiated by all witnesses

Peter did not exalt himself.

Parallel to the gospel

I want to address a spiritual parallel this evening ... and present the wonderful gospel. I believe there are some here tonight that desperately need this message.

Matt Drake's death:

With the news of Matt Drake's death late Friday night ... I was reminded that none of us know the days numbered by God for life on earth.

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

So glad to have known Matt ... and to know his testimony and his relationship with the Lord. But some here do not know Matt's Savior. And your days are numbered. It is my wish that you have many days and experience many blessings on earth. But what I want more than anything ... is for you to know the Lord Jesus Christ – to be forgiven of your sins and fully assured that if you were to die today you would go to heaven. All because of the blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, who paid for the sins of sinners.

➤ **Aeneas' SPIRITUAL Ailment**

If you are bedridden for eight years then you are a poor man. Aeneas was a sorry sight. His condition is pitiful. When Peter saw him the Spirit of God compelled Peter to not merely be sad by what he saw ... but to do something.

Acts 9:34

Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up.

Aeneas believed the message – believed that Jesus had healed him ... and immediately shot to his feet. And when he did his healing was 100% complete! He was made completely well – completely whole. And his ailment is a great picture of our sin.

Things to observe

1ST – His ailment was **EXTREME**

His condition was hopeless. If you are bedridden eight years that means you haven't left your bed all that time. Imagine the bed sores he must have had, the misery even beyond his paralysis.

One great preacher said

"There is no room for a great cure unless there is a great sickness, so there is no room for God's great grace unless there is great sin."

Jesus did not come to earth for the sake of those who need a physician ... not those who consider themselves healthy and well. Jesus came to those who recognize the disease of their soul – sin! Aeneas had no power to heal himself.

IN THE SAME WAY ... in a spiritual sense ... we all are powerless for salvation.

If there is to be any help and hope for our soul it will come with and only with the awareness that we can do nothing apart from the work of God to restore our diseased soul. And without a doubt, the best thing for the person with a diseased soul – the person who recognizes that magnitude of their sin – is to actually despair over this condition. Aeneas was in despair. There was no hope for him by any earthly means or human means.

AND IF YOU ARE IN DESPAIR OVER THE CONDITION OF YOUR SOUL ... don't despair! Understand what happened to Aeneas and recognize that there mercy is available to you too!

Spurgeon

“Be cheered with the hope that God will make your infirmity a platform upon which He will display His power!”

Notice the length of his ailment – eight years!

Eight years of ailment would hopefully make him most aware that his only hope was in God.

One of the great works of the Holy Spirit is to convict sinners of their sin. And when He works He will make a sinner realize that their sins are being stock-piled, with records kept ... with judgment to follow. (Romans 2:5)

Romans 2:5

“... you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Compare

Some have been in their sin for eight years ... others for 18 ... still others 58 ... and maybe even 88 years. But the wonderful truth is ... regardless of the length of your sin ... there is still plenty of mercy in our God. It is just as easy for God to forgive the sins of an 8 year old as it is for Him to forgive the sins of someone 88!

There is no doubt ... Aeneas knew his disease to be incurable. This is the condition of a sinner God wants you to have. When the gospel is declared – the Spirit of God will make a sinner feel that his spiritual condition is incurable ... except by the work of Christ on the cross. If you are here tonight ... and your spiritual condition is desperate. That is, you see your sin as grotesque and great – it is this pastor's joy that you are here! For the Lord Jesus is a healer of diseased sinners. It is a pastor's joy to point you to Jesus Christ. And to find in Christ alone the forgiveness of sins.

Compare:

From time to time I get to share the gospel with people who readily see their need for a Savior. And nothing is more delightful than providing the solution to the disease of sin to people who see their disease and long for healing.

But unless the Holy Spirit works in the soul to make a sinner see their sin ... no evangelist will convince a sinner of their need for a Savior.

There is a parallel to this in Luke 17 ... the story of 10 lepers who are healed physically but only one spiritually. Many think they are not all that bad and salvation is no big deal

because of it. Sure, they've made a lot of mistakes in the past ... but they're doing what they can to be better people. They are like 9 of the lepers who were healed by the Lord Jesus. Only one of the 10 who were healed returned to thank Jesus.

9 Suggested reasons they didn't thank Jesus (Luke 17:12-19)

1. *Perhaps one waited to see if the cure was real*
2. *Perhaps another waited to see if it would last*
3. *One may have said he would see Jesus later ... and thank Him*
4. *Maybe one decided that he had never had leprosy*
5. *I suspect that one thought that he would have gotten well anyway ...*
6. *Maybe one gave the glory to the priests*
7. *Perhaps one coldly said, "Oh, well, Jesus didn't really do anything"*
8. *It is even likely that one said, "Any rabbi could have done it."*
9. *I doesn't seem unreasonable to think that one said, "I was already much improved."*

Warren Wiersbe

ONLY ONE went back to Jesus and thanked Him ... realizing ... his healing could only come at the hands of Almighty God ... and to Christ alone did he owe His thanks, gratitude and praise!

We do well to consider

Aeneas had no doubt that his disease had no cure ... that his condition was hopeless. He would readily admit that without divine power he would someday die on that bed.

Think of the parallel ...

- ✓ When we see our sin as a disease worse than physical paralysis ... and that we can be healed and forgiven by divine power ... hope begins.
- ✓ When a sinner grieves over their sin and sees that he or she can do nothing ... and then longs to be healed by the power of God ...
- ✓ These are the people who are thrilled to receive the good news of the gospel of free grace.

Transition: There is something else we should note about Aeneas ...

2ND – He had information about **JESUS**

Notice that Peter said to Aeneas ...

Acts 9:34

"...Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you ..."

It becomes apparent that Aeneas wouldn't have believed what Peter said had he not known something about Jesus. Hearing who it was who healed him immediately brought to Aeneas' memory - several things. Aeneas must have heard the gospel

The gospel

God became a man and dwelt among us.

He was born a babe – abandoned His robes of glory for 30+ years to live here with us.

And there is little doubt that Peter had given his own testimony ...

I Corinthians 15:3-5

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Most importantly

Aeneas knew that ... though Jesus Christ was not present (visibly) ... it was Jesus who healed him. The same Person who healed when visible on earth could also heal when invisible to us in heaven.

3RD – He had information leading to **FAITH**

Aeneas did not place his faith on Peter ... he placed his faith on Christ!

Confusion by many ... who see something special in Peter for salvation

- Peter does not take any credit for the miracle
- Peter does not use any term like, “*as the head of the church I do now declare you forgiven*” ... “*I have the authority to pronounce you healed and saved*”

Anyone who is saved is saved solely by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spurgeon

“If ever you are saved you must be saved by Jesus Christ, alone through your own personal belief in Him – not by the intervention of any man, or set of men”

We can probably imagine that Peter said ...

Aeneas, you are paralyzed. It is obvious you can do nothing for yourself. It is Jesus Christ alone who heals you.

It is apparent that Aeneas *wished* to be healed.

What a great thing to observe in your own soul ... a *wish, a desire* to be forgiven and healed from the stains of sin.

It looks like ...

Aeneas believed Jesus **COULD** heal him

Aeneas believed Jesus would do it **THEN** and **THERE**

Two conditions

1. God’s power must be at work in one’s soul before a sinner can believe

Belief that God can forgive sin in Christ

2. Belief that regardless of the degree of one’s sin – it can be forgiven and cured just like Aeneas’ disease and ailment

Question

How much time is required for a sinner to be healed of his sin? IT IS DONE INSTANTLY BY CHRIST! It is not a process. There is a *DAY* of salvation not a *MONTH* or *YEAR* of salvation.

God is in the business of forgiving instantly ...

The sin of adultery ... the sin of pride ... the sin of lust ... the sin of thievery ... being guilty of every sin of the 10 Commandments ... can be forgiven this very moment!

In other words ... Jesus Christ can heal you and save you **NOW!** (This Day!)

Transition: When Jesus saves you and forgives you of your past sins ... He doesn't leave you to continue on in those sins. We see this in our fourth point ...

4TH – Aeneas was **COMPLETELY** restored (completely forgiven, Romans 8:1)

Acts 9:34

“... immediately he got up.

The man was free of the disease.

In the same way we are free of our sin when we are saved. Saved from its power and saved from its curse.

Spurgeon

Suppose, my dear fellow Sinner, you were to believe in Jesus Christ and yet were not saved – what then? Oh, I do not like to suppose it, for it is almost a blasphemy to imagine it! But yet, consider it for a moment. Believe in Jesus and NOT BE SAVED? Then He has broken His word, or lost His power to save, either of which we are unwilling to tolerate for a minute! If you believe in Jesus Christ, as surely as you live, Jesus Christ has saved you! I will tell you one thing – if you believe in Jesus Christ and you are damned, I will be damned with you! Come! I will risk my soul on that as surely as you will risk yours, for if the Lord Jesus Christ ever loses a soul that trusts Him, He will lose mine! But He never will, He never can –

HIS HONOR IS ENGAGED TO SAVE

THE MEANEST OF HIS SHEEP.

ALL THAT HIS HEAVENLY FATHER GAVE,

HIS HANDS SECURELY KEEP.

Rest in Him and you shall be saved, else were His name dishonored! And suppose that, like Aeneas, you trusted Christ – if you were not saved, what then? When then the Gospel would not be true! Shut up those churches, close those chapels, banish those ministers, burn those Bibles – there is no truth in any of them if a soul can believe in Jesus and yet not be saved!

5TH – Aeneas was **DIFFERENT** afterwards

Imagine for just a moment if all that Peter said had no affect on the paralyzed man?

Imagine a salvation *without* II Corinthians 4:17 taking place ...

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

When Aeneas was healed the change was visible and permanent. He was not healed FOR a day ... he was healed for a lifetime. The change was permanent! And the affect of his healing and salvation had lasting results.

Suggestion/Application – one means to grow in assurance of salvation ...

I remember when I was young to use a simple application to gain assurance of salvation

John 3:17

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge **GEORGE**, but that **GEORGE** should be saved through Him.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world **GEORGE**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **GEORGE** ... who believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:18

"He {**GEORGE**} who believes in Him is not judged ...

John 3:36

"He {**GEORGE**} who believes in the Son has eternal life ...

I John 5:13

These things I have written to **GEORGE** who believes in the name of the Son of God, in order that **GEORGE** may know that HE HAS eternal life.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for **GEORGE** who IS in Christ Jesus.

John 1:12

But TO **GEORGE WHO HAS** received Him, to **GEORGE** He gave the right to become children of God, even to **GEORGE** who **BELIEVES** in His name,

An observation concerning this miracle

Acts 9:35

And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Something good to remember:

It was clear to the people present that the miracle was not merely a **PHYSICAL** healing - for people responded by receiving **SPIRITUAL** healing.

The salvation of one often leads to the salvation of others!

There are some who say ...

I am not good enough to come to Christ ... but I will work on it.

Question: *What is the best way to come to Christ?*

JUST AS YOUR ARE!

*IF WE ARE BEGGARS ... DESTITUTE AND DESPERATELY IN NEED OF
SOMETHING FROM GOD ... WE BETTER COME IN OUR BEGGAR'S CLOTHES
AND NOT OUR SELF-RIGHTEOUS ROBES.*

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

A healed body will last for a lifetime.

A healed soul will last for eternity.

Wrap Up:

The greatest miracle of all miracles is the miracle of **REGENERATION**