

The Gospels are their own genre of biblical literature. They contain teaching, instruction, stories, narrative, and descriptions of Jesus Christ. These Gospels show how Jesus gives new spiritual life with power and love – which is the grace of God. He gave Himself as a sacrifice for me.

What Examples has Jesus given us in Matthew 8:14-17:

1. **He Gave Intercessors on Our Behalf:** Ref; 1 Cor. 9:5 (Peter was married), John 1:44 (Peter and Andrew were from Bethsaida). Jesus was living in Capernaum, Matt. 4:13. He would preach in the synagogue (that the centurion helped build, Luke 4:38, 7:5). In Luke 4:38, Peter's family requested Jesus to come to his mother-in-law.
 - a. We are saved before the foundations of the world, Eph. 1:4. In Eph. 1 see that prayer is the means of working alongside God's will to connect the elect with the Gospel.
 - b. Stephen prayed for Paul in Acts 7:60, Jesus prayed for all those who would come to Him, John 17:20-26.
2. **He Intervened Spiritually:** V14, the fever was a disease or malaria type illness. She had a serious infection. What did not happen? Pete's mother didn't greet Jesus at the door. She didn't testify of her faith in Christ. She didn't respond to Jesus, wanting to be healed.
 - a. Jesus did this for her. No one seeks after God, Psalm 14:3, Rom. 3:11. God draws the unbeliever to Him, John 6:44, 3:8. He called me.
3. **He Saved You as a "Least Likely":** V15, the leper, Gentile Roman centurion's servant, now a woman with a fever who would have been considered unclean.
 - a. He touched her. He healed the defiled yet not defiling the healer.
 - b. Jesus saves the humble tax collector, Luke 18:9-14. He did not come for the self-righteous, Matt.6:2. Nor the hypocrite, Matt. 6:5. Nor those who fasted to be seen of men, Matt. 6:16.
 - c. He didn't call many wise, mighty, noble. But Jesus calls the foolish, base, weak, and the despised to come, 1 Cor. 1:26-31.
 - d. Jesus calls those who know they are sick and in need of a physician to come, Mk. 2:17.
 - e. Jesus says those that come to Him are like children with nothing to offer but in need of everything, Matt. 18:3-5.
4. **He Saved with Immediate Effect:** V15, she was healed and began serving immediately, Luke 4:39. Peter's mother was sick, then healed, then served that very day.
 - a. **Immediate Legal Effect:** total justification, Rom. 5:1-4, 8:1. Made right in God's sight.
 - b. **Immediate Moral Effect:** we possess a new heart (2 Cor. 5:17), mind (1 Cor. 2:6-16), are a "new man," (Eph. 4:24). We bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We desire to keep the commands of the Lord, John 14:15, 1 John 5:3.
5. **He Included You in His Future Kingdom:** V16-17, Matthew quotes Isaiah who speaks of the coming King, in Isaiah 53. Jesus has authority over grief, Is. 53:4, (diseases, sickness, illness), and previews His coming kingdom in the healings He manifested during His ministry.
 - a. Jesus has removed the curse of sin and death through His atonement on the cross. The griefs of sin and the eternal provision of wholeness and salvation is realized in heaven not while on earth.
 - b. All men die, and so prosperity and healing on earth can't be compared to what will be received when sin is no more when we are glorified together with Christ, Eph. 2:6.

Further Discussion and Application

Read Revelation 20:1-3. How would you describe a time when Satan and his demons no longer have dominion and authority on earth? What will be missing during the Millennial Reign of Christ? What will be commonplace during that time? See Is. 65:17-25, Zechariah 14:16-21, Psalm 22:25-31.

Israel is described in Isaiah 1:4-6. What metaphors and descriptions does God give Isaiah to tell the people what they are like? Fast forward to Isaiah 52:13- 53:12, why must Christ come to save His people and bring the Gospel to the Gentiles? Who could save a people who aren't looking for God or seeking Him? Why must God regenerate us Eph. 2:1-10?

Jesus became sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ, 2 Cor. 5:21. What is the message that we can present to other people about the graciousness of God and the work that Christ has accomplished on the cross? Why is being a new creation an encouragement to the believer but often a discouragement to the unbeliever? What changes in our lives when we come to Christ?

God saves the least likely. What are the characteristics that we must possess to inherit the Kingdom of God? From Matthew 5:1-12, what is necessary? Looking at 1 Cor. 1:26-31, what describes the average believer? From Psalm 19:7-11, what are the blessings of God's Word and God's Law? What change does the believer see if their lives because they have come from death to life?