

Our Great Liberator
Mark 1:21-45

“Let us take heed that our faith be a faith of the heart as well as of the head. Let us see that our knowledge has a sanctifying influence on our affections and our lives. Let us not only know Christ but also love Him from a sense of actual benefit received from Him. Let us not only believe that He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world but also rejoice in Him and cleave to Him with purpose of heart. Let us not only be acquainted with Him by the hearing of the ear but also by daily personal application to Him for mercy and grace. “The life of Christianity,” say Luther, “consists in possessive pronouns. It is one thing to say, “Christ is Savior.” It is quite another to say, “He is my Savior and Lord. The devil can say the first. The true Christian alone can say the second.” J.C. Ryle

- I. Jesus Christ came into the world to seek and to save the lost. He didn't come into the world to free it from the effects of the fall, instead he came to rescue souls from its deadly grip on the heart. When Jesus came the first time, he put in motion events that had a global impact on mankind. His coming was a seismic event that sent tremors of light through the darkness of sin, tremors that rocked our souls, tremors that brought us unto salvation. He placed us on the rock, delivered us from the condemnation of sin and gave us a place of refuge. In other words, he has given us every reason we need to stand firmly in the faith.

2 Thess. 2:7

Matt. 24:36-42

2 Thess. 2:7-12

Rev. 20:6

Rev. 21:1-4

Rom. 5:6

2 Samuel 22:3 *“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior— ...*

- II. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law by Jesus partially fulfilled the prophecy spoken about him in Isaiah 53:4. He not only healed her body, but he also brought comfort and joy to her heart. Her response was to immediately get up and serve him as a spontaneous act of praise and thanksgiving for being set free from her infirmity. We might never be set free from what physically ails us in our present state, but we have been set free from the condemnation of sin both now and forever. Therefore, we must be very careful to guard against losing our appreciation for what our salvation means for us.

Mark 1:29-39

Isa. 17:14

Matthew 8:17 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."*

Psalm 103:1-5 *1Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits- 3who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

- III. The healing of the leprous man speaks of the despair, misery and hopelessness that living in a fallen world can bring. Jesus saw and healed every kind of disease known to man. He also saw and set people free from every kind of demon that exists. These two powerful forces, coupled with the sinful desires that war against the soul, make living in this world exceedingly difficult. The only one who can set us free is Jesus. Disease will eventually take us, Satan and his minions will continue to wreak havoc and our sin nature will continue to war against us until he calls us home. Our heart devotion to him should never be contingent upon being healthy or seeing things go well for us in this world or having complete victory over sin. It should be based solely on our new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).

Mark 1:40-45

Lev. 13:45-46

John 8:35-36 *Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*