

When even Jesus COULD NOT heal

Mark 6:1-6



September 2022

Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: faith, belief, believe, heal, Mark 6, Mark 9:23;

Summary: How is it even possible that the Son of God could do no mighty works or healings at one point? What could cause that to happen? How does that account apply to us today? Are we limiting the Holy One of Israel as Israel did? How can God do more miracles, healings, and wonders in our life?

Hello, fellow members of God's house. After the Feast this year I hope to give a detailed sermon or teaching on "Living by Faith". I'd like this message today to be an introduction to it since believers are supposed to be people who "live by faith".

Romans 1:17 says the "just shall live by faith" –quoting Habakkuk 2:4.

Are we persons of deep faith in God? By "faith" I mean belief, trust, placing our confidence in his will in our lives – without doubting and worrying -- and walking out his plan and his will for you. Trusting God is a huge part of real faith.

Or do we have too many moments of "unbelief"? If we "believe, without doubting, ALL THINGS are possible" – quoting Jesus/Yeshua himself.

(**Yeshua was the Hebrew name** he was given and many of you prefer me to be using the name his mama called him. But others of you know the name "Jesus" better – so let me use both – but either one, I'm referring to our SAVIOR, the Son of God, OK?)

Mark 9:23

"IF you can believe, ALL things are possible to him who believes."

But when I look around the church – the group of believers in Christ and our Father – do I see a lot of miracles? A lot of profound, instant healings? No, I don't. Is that a problem GOD has now, that he can't heal? Or is it a matter of weak faith in either the pastor praying for healing – or the one who hopes to be healed, or both? All I know is that we're sure not seeing much in the way of healing in the past couple decades.

Yeshua's word is so clear. If you can believe, everything's possible to anyone who believes. (Mark 9:23) **We need this message because we're supposed to be living by faith.** And I think God wants to do far more in our lives – like healing and many other things – but is limited by our unbelief.

The evidence seems clear to me that we're not in a period of time of great faith. Even Jesus wondered aloud –“Will the son of Man find faith when he comes?” – **Luke 18:8.** So we end-times folks may need a booster on faith. Including me.

So welcome everyone to Light on the Rock. Some of you tell others about our website, so thank you so much for that. Doing so helps the website be seen more and people able to use it. **Please register** as that allows you to leave comments and it raises our profile considerably to have more who have registered, especially if you leave comments on the blogs. About the blogs, be aware that you can hover over the scripture, and the whole verse pops up. But that works only in the blogs.

Back to the message.

Our Savior was known for his many miracles – walking on the water, calming stormy seas/lakes, multiplying food like bread and fish, resurrecting the dead back to life – and “healing all” who came to him. (**Matthew 12:15; Luke 6:17-19**).

But ... there was a time when even the Son of God on earth either couldn't, or decided he wouldn't, heal except for a very few.

As we go into this, I want you to ask yourself – if YOU had been in that place and time when even Yeshua was stymied – how would you have reacted? Would you in fact have been one of the few who received healing, even if the others weren't?

A time when Jesus himself could not or would not heal? Is that possible? Let's read it in Mark 6. **At the end of Mark 5,** we read how Jesus resurrected a little girl who had died. He also had just healed the woman with the issue of blood who touched his garments or his tzit-zit tassels. From there, he went

back home to Nazareth, his home town. I'll come back to Mark 5 later, as there is another faith lesson there. But after resurrecting Jairus' daughter, and the woman with the issue of blood, he finally arrives back at his hometown Nazareth. Powerful miracles and healings had been going on before this.

Mark 6:1-6

Then He went out from there and **came to His own country**, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!
3 Is this not **the carpenter**, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" **So they were offended at Him.**

[Note also that after birthing Jesus, Mary had at least 6 more children!]

4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."

5 Now He COULD DO NO mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a FEW sick people and healed them.

6 And He *marveled because of their unbelief.* Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

The equivalent account in Matthew 13:55-58 says in verse 58, "Now He did not do many mighty works there **BECAUSE OF their unbelief**".

So did you get that? **Even Yeshua COULD NOT heal many in his own hometown due to their unbelief.** I don't want that happening to you and me. We may have unbelief going on more than we realize.

When was the last powerful miracle or dramatic, sudden, rapid, and complete healing you've experienced? If it's been a while, could it be because you or I have some unbelief going on?

Their unbelief limited the power of God. Israel did that too; they limited God.

Psalms 78:40-41

"How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,
And grieved Him in the desert!
41 Yes, again and again they tempted [tested] God,
And limited the Holy One of Israel."

I submit to you that because of your or MY unbelief at times, WE ALSO have limited the power of Almighty God.

One big reason for this lesson or teaching today is this: I'd like to see God's power released among his people. No more limiting the Holy One of Israel.

Do you and I worry? Of course most of us do from time to time, but worry is a demonstration of unbelief. Christ commands us NOT to worry (read Matthew 6:25-34) – about anything really. Worrying shows we don't trust God to really heal or take care of us.

We're not hearing of, or seeing, many healings among believers. I don't mean things like "the surgery went well"; that's not the dramatic full healings I refer to. By "healing", I mean total, rapid, instant healings like we read of Yeshua/Jesus or in the book of Acts.

When Jesus sent out the disciples into the ministry field, he gave them POWER to cast out demons and cure the sick. He sent them "to preach the gospel and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1-2-) – not just to PRAY FOR the sick but to HEAL the sick. You hear the difference? Today we PRAY for the sick, but many are not healed.

Luke 9:1-2

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

v. 6:

So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

These disciples didn't even have the Holy Spirit yet! So has God now changed all this power to heal for our time now? I don't buy it. I think we are the issue!

I long to see that in ministries today! Lots of real healings, not fake ones. God's used me for *a few* of those, but not the majority of times I've prayed. Just some here and there, and some were powerful, instant, and definite healings. But we're not seeing very many. So I'm preaching to myself too.

Let's remember Jesus had said:

Mark 9:23

"IF you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

None of us likes to confess our FAITH is weak. But I submit to you that the evidence shows, our faith IS WEAK. We're not seeing the fruit of strong faith. Be sure to hear my follow up sermon in November or so. Jesus often spoke of "faithless", "you of little faith", and other similar descriptions. What would he say about you and me and those we fellowship with?

Could a lot of the problem be that we just don't have much real unquestioning faith anymore? We worry, we doubt, we wonder – rather than just thanking God even IN and even FOR the troubles God knows we're in (Philippians 4:6-7). Paul said once he came to realize that, even in his "thorn in the flesh" – it made him glory in his tribulations and "take pleasure" in his infirmities! Now that is great faith, trust, and belief that God's got your situation. Let's read it.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

"Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities**, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, **for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

If we're honest, during the anointing for healing, if we still feel pain during the prayer, do we also feel doubt? Christ **asked if he would find faith on the earth when he returns!** (Luke 18:8)

Mark 9:17-29

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "**Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.**" 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

19 He answered him and said, "**O faithless generation**, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. **But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.**"

23 Jesus said to him, "**IF you can BELIEVE, ALL things are possible to him who believes.**"

I absolutely trust Yeshua means what he said here, for all generations. We know also, so many times, Jesus said things like "according to your faith, you are healed." Sometimes he even asked if they believed – and if they said "yes" – he healed them.

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

I LOVE his honesty. We ALL claim to have faith, but can we admit that apparently our faith as a group and individually is small or lacking, and needs HELP? The evidence of so few healings and miracles is proof it does.

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" 26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "**Why could we not cast it out?**"

29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

When was the last time you prayed and fasted for faith and power to heal and cast out demons?

The truth is, MOST of the people we anoint and pray over for healing – don't get healed immediately and rapidly as we read in scripture. **Ministers everywhere justify it.** They say it's because signs and wonders were needed at that time (but not today?), for it made people take notice, and they needed great miracles to get the church started.

I don't buy that.

Most of the ones we pray for remain in pain, remain sick, including many of my own anointings. So as usual, I prepared this sermon **as a lesson for ME.**

What is happening? What's going on? I've had some awesome miracles God has done through me – a few – but not very many, so what's wrong?

I've been healed of cancer twice in my life. The first time I was told I might have 3 months – or a short time – to live. And yet I have other issues I have not been healed of. I've prayed for people who were dramatically healed instantly – but the majority of the time no healing took place. So I'm preaching to myself TOO!

We need to get rid of unbelief, worry, doubt.

I've seen and lived through profound miracles. I've prayed for the sick – and several were instantly healed. A man at a small feast site in Colorado around 2009, who had had a major stroke, upon the “amen” was able to run up the stairs in the rented hall. His wife who had severe back pain and problems demonstrated to us all how now she was able to bend over and touch her toes.

But then others I also prayed for, were not healed at all. *God has blessed me with witnessing HIS healing power on several* – whom I'll recount in a future sermon, but honestly, most of the time, most of us ministers including me, are not seeing healings in the majority of our healing prayers. I'm sure GOD would want to turn that around.

2 Corinthians 5:7

“For we walk by faith, not by sight”.

Are you and I *LIVING* by faith? Are you SURE you are? I'll cover that after the Feast, but please be thinking about it. *How many of us even bother asking for an elder to anoint us for healing (James 5:14) or to send an anointed cloth anymore* – or at least to pray for a situation over the phone with us, as Jesus/Yeshua healed the Centurion's servant from a distance, by just saying the word (**Luke 7:6-10**).

James 5:14-16

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And **the prayer of FAITH WILL save the sick**, and the Lord WILL raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Asked to Leave the Room

On a RELATED issue Let me switch gears a bit now – would you and I have been asked to LEAVE The ROOM when Yeshua healed or resurrected someone? He often healed in front of the group of people – but sometimes put everyone out but just a handful.

A “ruler of the synagogue’, their leader, had asked Yeshua to come and heal his daughter. On the way there, they were told his 12-year-old daughter had died.

Mark 5:36-42

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "**Do not be afraid; only BELIEVE.**" *37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.*

38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. 39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."

*40 **And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.***

41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

The parallel story in **Luke 8:50-56** says **he took Peter James, John, and the parents in** and put everyone else outside. Our belief must be strong or else our unbelief can pollute the thoughts and spirit during the prayer. Even Yeshua/Jesus put people out of the room to get rid of any unbelief going on while he resurrected the dead.

Even Peter later did the same thing when he resurrected a woman named Dorcas. **You can read of it in Acts 9:39-41.** He put everyone out of the room, then prayed, and she came back to life.

Our belief must go beyond just believing there is a God. After all, even demons believe and fear GOD (James 2:19).

In this sermon, I just want us all to ponder how unbelief could even keep The very Son of God from doing healings and miracles in Nazareth. I want us to ponder our faith and closeness to Almighty Father and our King Jesus the Messiah.

Next time I'll get into details about HOW we strengthen our faith. I'm working on it too! Having powerful FAITH is part of the fruit of God's spirit, and certainly is a GIFT of God through His spirit, which we'll explore next time.

1 Cor. 12:7-10- especially verse 9; and **1 Cor. 13:1-2, 13** says FAITH is one of the BIG THREE gifts we can ask God for – faith, hope and love.

So use this time until the next FAITH sermon, to study on faith on your own, and to ask God to give you faith, without doubting, without any unbelief going on, because as we've seen, in the presence of unbelief, even Jesus or Yeshua would not or could not heal in Nazareth.

That's how LIMITING it is **when we don't fully believe, fully trust, fully even rejoice in whatever God is doing in our lives**, as Paul did.

If we all do repent of unbelief as the man of the son when he said he had faith, but "help my unbelief" did, if we pray for more faith and walk by faith more, we're likely to start seeing and ***experiencing many more miracles and healings, to God's glory.***

Closing prayer.