

5

JESUS HEALS



What are some home remedies you rely on when you're sick?

QUESTION #1

#BSFLJesus

THE POINT

Jesus brings healing to our lives.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

When it comes to pain and illness, many of us fall into one of three categories: call the doctor immediately, try our own home remedies or over-the-counter solutions, or ignore it and hope it goes away.

I fell into the third group when I started suffering from heartburn and stomach pain. But after the pain had gone on far too long, I finally went to the doctor. After several rounds of treatments and tests, the doctor announced I had several things wrong: a hiatal hernia, severe acid reflux, and a pre-cancerous condition in my esophagus.

For months, I followed the doctor's instructions. But I finally made another decision: I asked others to pray for me. And they did. A short time later, the doctor told me: "Robby, you've done everything I've asked you to, but I'm still amazed. Your esophagus is just fine."

It hit me: calling on the Lord should have been the first thing I did!

The Gospel of Mark records the story of a man who needed medical help for his daughter—a man who wisely went to Jesus. As we explore his story, we'll see the incredible result of his faith.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Mark 5:22-24

²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” ²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.

Jairus was a big deal in the community. Beyond the temple in Jerusalem, the local synagogue was the center of community life. As one of the synagogue leaders, Jairus had responsibilities in leading worship and instruction, which made him one of the highest ranking leaders in his town. This text is shocking, then, when it describes Jairus—with a large crowd watching—falling at Jesus’ feet and begging for help.

In the first century, a Middle Eastern man in a high position carried himself with the utmost dignity at all times. Such a man would never make himself a public spectacle. Yet Jairus didn’t care that a large crowd had gathered around Jesus. Neither did he care that Jesus was unpopular with the religious elite. All he knew was Jesus had the ability to heal people, and Jesus was his last shot. Jairus knew where his hope lay. He understood what was important and what was not.

Jairus begged one thing: “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” Jairus was facing something he absolutely could not control. His daughter’s life was entirely out of his hands, and it was tearing him apart.

Just because the situation was out of Jairus’s hands doesn’t mean he had no hope. On the contrary, he knew precisely where he could place that hope: in the hands of the Healer. He didn’t ask Jesus to come and “try” to heal his daughter; his words were full of certainty. He said, “lay your hands on her, *so that she may be made well and live*” (emphasis added).

What are some common obstacles that keep us from turning to Jesus with our needs?

QUESTION #2

Many of us initially approach Christ in the same way: we come out of desperation, but only after we've tried all human possibilities for relief. We are desperate for healing, restoration, direction, purpose, identity, or freedom from the bondage of sin and addiction. Whatever the source of our desperation, we look to Jesus for help.

Thankfully, Jesus doesn't turn us away. He comes when we seek Him even as He did with Jairus—He looks on us with compassion and meets us where we are.

Mark 5:35-40

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.

Jairus's daughter—his only child (see Luke 8:42)—wasn't just sick; she was moments away from death. Surely Jairus had exhausted the resources that were available to him. Every doctor in town, every religious ritual, and every home remedy had proven ineffective. Going to a mysterious rabbi purported to have healing abilities might have been a last-ditch effort, but he'd heard enough to make him believe.

Then came the terrible news: "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"



ASKED AND ANSWERED

Prayer is the most common way we ask Jesus to bring healing into our lives. But we often forget to look back at the results of our prayers. Use the chart below to record five important requests you have made of God in recent months. In addition, record the ways in which God has responded to those requests so far.

My requests

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

God's answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

When has God answered your prayer in a way that led to rejoicing?

This wasn't the only time Jesus' timing seemed to be off in a dire situation. Toward the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick and dying. When Jesus received word that Lazarus was sick, He remained where He was two more days before heading to see him. (See John 11:1-7.)

In both cases—the death of Lazarus and the death of Jairus's daughter—it seemed that Jesus was too late. In reality, He was right on time. Sometimes we may find ourselves in difficult or even tragic situations. When that happens, we want Jesus to respond on our terms and in our time. Of course, it doesn't work that way. We need to remember that all of our experiences are divinely orchestrated by God to display His glory.

We may see a delay with irreversible consequences, but Jesus does not. Resuscitating a dead person was no harder for the Son of God, the Creator of the universe, than healing even a minor illness. We may not understand why God delays at times, but we can trust that He always works to bring glory to Himself.

When they arrived at Jairus's house, grief and mourning had already filled the place. Everything seemed wrong to those mourning—but everything was right in the eyes of the Son of God. Over the sound of mourners heavy with the despair of loss, Jesus spoke incredulous powerful words of comfort: "The child is not dead but sleeping."

For the Author of life, raising the dead was as simple as waking a small child from sleep.

Mark 5:41-43

⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of

What have you learned in recent years about trusting God?

QUESTION #3

age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.
⁴³ **And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.**

Even in the first century, people knew what a dead person looked like. They didn't have the scientific instruments we possess today, but as people looked down at Jairus's daughter, they knew she was devoid of any life. So when an itinerant rabbi walked in and said, "The child is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39), they may have thought He was making a cruel joke.

But Jesus knew the miracle He was about to perform. Jesus took the disciples who had accompanied Him, along with the child's parents, into the room with the dead girl. There, He did something that may have seemed quite unremarkable: Jesus merely took the girl by the hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." No magic words, no incantations, no mystical potions. Jesus' words were all that was needed. "Immediately the girl got up and began walking."

The only one able to bring a dead body back to life is the One who instills life in the first place. If Jesus is able to give and restore life, He surely can be fully trusted to handle any situation we face.

Jesus didn't raise this young girl simply because she died. Other people died in the towns where Jesus ministered, yet He didn't bring them all back to life. The Gospels only record two other instances when Jesus resuscitated a dead person. (See Luke 7:11-15 and John 11:38-44.) We may wonder why He didn't raise more, but we know that Jesus purposed to do precisely those things that would bring Him glory.

Our lives will also be hit with misfortunes and mishaps, and we won't always know why. In fact, we very often won't know why. But before we jump to conclusions, let's trust the One who's in control of every situation. He will bring healing in His time and in His way—and for His glory.

How has Jesus brought healing into your life?

QUESTION #4

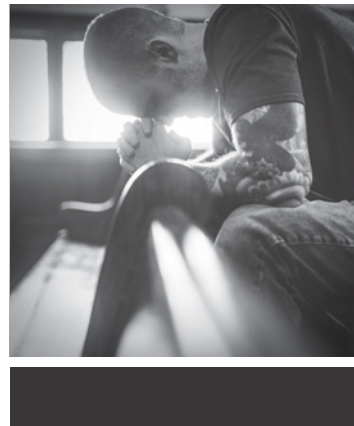
What are practical ways we can support those waiting for God's healing?

QUESTION #5

LIVE IT OUT

How can you actively trust Christ this week? Consider doing one of the following in the days to come:

- ▶ **Pray deeply.** What are you going through that seems beyond hope? Go to Jesus in prayer and give your situation to Him. Pour out your thoughts, emotions, confusion, doubts, and anything else. Listen for God's response.
- ▶ **Trust fully.** God doesn't always work according to our timetables, but we can trust that He will do what's best. As you pray, fervently express your trust that He will answer out of His great love and power.
- ▶ **Provide generously.** Find someone in your community who has a need they cannot meet on their own. Let God use you and your group as the channel through which He works, giving glory to Him in the process.



Doctors are a wonderful part of our modern society. We should all use them as often as necessary. More importantly, we should seek help and healing from our Creator in every circumstance.

My thoughts

Share with others how you will live out this study: **#BSFLJesus**