

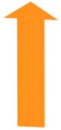
SEVEN ARROWS



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

MARK 2:1-12



Healing shows up again and again as a large part of Jesus' ministry. Each of the four Gospel writers described a number of examples where Jesus healed someone who was blind, lame, deaf, demon-possessed or even dead. The story of the paralytic underscores the power of Jesus. He was widely known as a healer, so much so that the friends of the paralyzed man would do anything to get him to Jesus. Jesus recognized their faith in His power-that they went to all the trouble to lower their friend through the roof was a picture of their faith. Jesus didn't immediately heal the man, however. First, He forgave his sins. The religious leaders were furious-only God can forgive sins! This is exactly Jesus' point. He is God and His healings are a way to show the world the power He possesses.

LUKE 8:26-39



The demon-possessed man showed another example of Jesus' power over both the physical and spiritual realm. This man's situation was dire. He was a mess and everyone knew it. Others had tried to help him, or at least contain him but they had no luck. Everything changed when the man met Jesus. The demons immediately recognized Jesus as the Son of God, and they trembled. Jesus spoke and the demons fled-with a word, He did what no one else could. The formerly demon-possessed man sat at the feet of Jesus in awe and worship. Jesus didn't leave the man there. He commanded him to go back to his home and tell everyone all that God had done. Can you imagine what the town must have thought when they saw this man coming? He certainly didn't have the best reputation, but Jesus had changed everything, and the man's transformed life was used to point others to the glory of God.

JOHN 9



In another healing story, Jesus encountered a man born blind. The common assumption in Jesus' day was that someone in this situation had surely done something to deserve it. Either his sin or someone else's sin caused him to experience blindness. Jesus disagreed. Broken people live in a broken world-that's just life. Jesus didn't blame the blindness on anyone, but instead, He used this man's brokenness to point others to the greatness of God. The man's testimony was simple, yet profound--"I was blind and now I can see". This is the same story all Christians can tell. We were born in a state of sin and brokenness. There was nothing we could do to fix ourselves, but Jesus took our pain and made us whole. He made us see both our sin and our need for a Savior, and because of His grace, we see clearly the glory of God. Now we live so that others can see His glory as well.

LUKE 7:1-17



An interesting thing about these healings is that the ones healed are not the primary focus of the story. Both the centurion and the widow experienced the grace of God in response to their faith. In fact, their faith was so great that Jesus marveled. Many people marveled at Jesus throughout His life, but this time, He was the one who was awestruck. Faith gets Jesus' attention. There's no doubt that Jesus has the power to heal anyone of anything at anytime he pleases. But He doesn't heal everyone. For example, He did very few miracles in His hometown of Nazareth. Why? Jesus performed miracles to help people come to faith, and the people in Jesus' hometown weren't open to believing in Him as the Messiah. When we learn of Jesus' claims to be God and His offer of salvation, the only appropriate response is to have faith, just like the centurion and the widow. He saves those who have faith that He is Who He says He is, and that He has the power to deliver us from sin and death.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38















Paul encouraged the church in Corinth by explaining how Jesus' resurrection foretells what will happen to all those who have faith in His work. The human body, though it will die on this earth, will rise to new life with God forever. This new body will not be like the former one. It will not grow old, get sick, or fall apart. It will be a spiritual body that will be whole and healthy. Christians will be raised from the dead like Jesus was raised from the dead. They will also be healed like those Jesus healed. The miracles Jesus performed remind us of the past—there was a time in the garden when the human body didn't suffer in a sin-filled world. Miracles also point forward to the future when our bodies are not our final home. We live in them for the short time we're on earth, but we can look forward to the day God will give us new, glorified bodies.