

THE MERCIFUL JESUS WHO FORGIVES, HEALS AND SAVES

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Texts: *Matthew 14:13-21, Luke 7:36-50*



In life, three important things human being needs are forgiveness of sins, healing from sicknesses and salvation of the soul, and the number one among these three is forgiveness of sins. Jesus came to forgive man his sins, heal the sick and save those who are lost. Who does not need forgiveness? Everyone does because even if you are holy, people around you can stain you any time with their sins. It is for this reason you must avoid associating yourself with bad people.

Healing is different from salvation. A person can be healed but not saved. It is only Jesus that can forgive, heal and save. No matter the pleasure you are enjoying, if you are not in Jesus, it is all useless. This is because holy freedom comes from Jesus

alone. Yes, some freedom lead to imprisonment but the freedom from Jesus is a holy freedom.

The merciful Jesus who forgives, heals and saves. On a certain day, Jesus Christ went into the Synagogue and saw a man whose hand was paralyzed. Knowing that He was going to heal the man, some people asked him if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath. Jesus made it clear to them that, it is not a sin for someone to save lives or render help to someone on the Sabbath. Having made this clear, He said to the man with the paralyzed hand to stretch his hand. He did and Jesus healed him. The man did not complain or doubt when Jesus asked him to stretch out his hand. He had faith in Jesus and he received his healing. Are you sick or having pain in any part of your body? In faith, stretch it out or touch it and say to yourself, "I am healed" and so shall it be unto you in Jesus name.

According to the Bible, after healing the man, the Pharisees made plan to kill the Lord, but Jesus, knowing their plans, left that place and a large crowd followed Him and healed all those who were sick (**See Matthew 12:9-21**).

Now, why did Jesus left them when He has the power to destroy anyone that rises against Him? Jesus is meek and gentle. He did so to teach us a lesson that, we should not welcome trouble but be gentle.

The merciful Jesus who forgives, heals and saves. Jesus loves people and is merciful to them. When He saw that the people (those who were following Him) were hungry, and it was already very late, He had mercy on them and provided food for them all to eat. With just two fishes and five loaves of bread, He satisfied more than five thousand people and the disciples gathered twelve baskets full of the remnant (**See Matthew 14:13-21**). Indeed, there is no one who is merciful like Jesus.

The merciful Jesus who forgives, heals and saves. As Saint Luke recorded, a Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him in his house. While Jesus was eating, a woman who was living a sinful life came into the house with an alabaster jar full of perfume. According to Saint Luke, this woman stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting Jesus' feet with her tears. She then dried the feet with her hair, kissed Jesus and poured the perfume on them.

When Simon, the Pharisee saw the woman doing this, he thought Jesus did not know that she was a sinful woman. He thought, ***“If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives.”***

Jesus knowing the thought of Simon, said if two debtors who were owing a money-lender (one, five hundred silver coins and the second, fifty hundred silver coins), were forgiven their debts because they could not pay back, who would love the money-lender more? The answer was the one forgiven more. Then, Jesus told them that, the great love the woman had shown to Him proved that, her many sins have been forgiven. To confirm this, He said to the woman, ***“Your sins are forgiven.”*** When the others who were present saw what Jesus did, they said, ***“Who is this, who even forgives sins?”*** Take note of the word, “Even.” By saying this, they tried to look down on Jesus. But Jesus proved to them that He is indeed, the God who can forgive, heal and save. Finally, He said to the woman, ***“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*** (See Luke 7:36-50)

Jesus Christ is merciful and He is always ready to forgive, heal and save those who come to Him with sincere repentance. May this merciful Jesus forgive, heal and save your soul from the hands of the evil one in Jesus’ name. Amen!