

3/22/26

Sermon Title: Jesus, the Lord of the New Era

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 9:18-38

### **Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.

<sup>21</sup> She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes,

<sup>24</sup> he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

<sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

### **Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute**

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

<sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”;

<sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”

<sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

<sup>32</sup> While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.

<sup>33</sup> And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.”

### **The Workers Are Few**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

<sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus opened a new era that transcends legalism, fundamentalism, and Judaism. He transformed the age of the Law into the age of grace.

He ushered in a time when salvation comes not by the Law, but by faith.

Jesus demonstrated this truth by raising the already-dead daughter of a ruler, healing a woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years, opening the eyes of the blind, and driving out a demon from a man who had been mute, enabling him to speak.

According to the Law, touching a dead body or a woman who was bleeding made a person unclean, and such contact was forbidden.

People also considered the blind and the mute to be unclean, believing their conditions were the result of sin.

However, Jesus went beyond the Law—He raised the dead and healed the sick.

Jesus is the source of life.

Therefore, the new era He opened overflows with life.

Jesus heals the ruler's daughter and the woman with the issue of blood.

While Jesus was speaking these words, a ruler came to Him and pleaded that He would raise his dead daughter.

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, the ruler is identified as Jairus, a synagogue leader.

Although he was not a priest, he was the chief official responsible for managing the synagogue.

At that time, many synagogue leaders did not favor Jesus, because He often taught in the synagogues and made statements that seemed to challenge or humble the Jewish people.

However, his only daughter had died.

In such a moment, he had no time to consider anything else.

When his daughter died, he ran straight to Jesus, who was widely known for healing the sick, casting out demons, and restoring the weak.

Hearing Jairus's request, Jesus went with him, accompanied by His disciples.

<sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

At that moment, a woman came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of His cloak.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.

<sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

This woman had been suffering from a bleeding condition for twelve years.

The number twelve, along with seven, is considered a number of completeness in the Bible.

Therefore, the twelve years represent not only a physical period of time, but also the depth and extremity of her suffering.

The Gospel of Mark records that she had seen many doctors and spent all she had to be healed, yet instead of getting better, her condition grew worse.

The Jews regarded a woman’s bleeding as a symbol of sin and considered contact with her to be unclean.

For this reason, she was isolated from society, including her own family, and was not allowed to go to the temple or the synagogue.

Moreover, this condition was considered valid grounds for divorce at that time, so if she had been married, she likely would have been abandoned by her husband.

To this woman, Jesus was a ray of light and her only hope.

Though she was fully aware of her situation, she came to Jesus seeking salvation. She quietly came up behind Him and, with all her heart and devotion, touched the edge of His cloak, believing that even touching His garment would heal her.

When she touched His cloak, Jesus perceived that power had gone out from Him. Turning to her, He said, “Daughter, take heart; your faith has healed you.”

While everyone in the world had condemned her, Jesus tenderly called her “daughter” and healed her.

Seeing the faith of this woman—who had been socially and religiously cast out—Jesus not only healed her physical illness but also restored her emotional and spiritual wounds.

After healing the woman who had suffered for twelve years, Jesus arrived at the house of the ruler (Jairus), where the young daughter had already died and preparations for her funeral were underway.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes,

<sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

<sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

Inside the house were flute players and a noisy crowd of mourners.

According to Jewish custom at the time, people would hire flute players and professional mourners for funerals.

Jesus told the crowd gathered for the funeral to go away, saying that the girl was not dead but asleep.

At this, the crowd laughed at Him.

But after Jesus had sent them out, He took the girl by the hand, and she got up.

The passage deliberately focuses on Jesus' action of taking the girl by the hand. His hand symbolically represents His power.

There is no means of salvation apart from the hand of Jesus.

Those who believe in Him are saved by His gracious hand that holds them, and by that same grace, they are able to endure the hardships of life.

News of this spread quickly throughout the entire region.

### Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

After raising the daughter of the ruler (Jairus) and leaving that place, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" and continued to follow Him all the way to the house.

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

<sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”;

<sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”

<sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

The blind men addressed Jesus as “Son of David.”

“Son of David” is a title used for the Messiah.

This means that they already knew that Jesus was the Messiah.

Though they could not see physically, their spiritual eyes were clearer than anyone else’s.

At that time, none of the teachers of the Law, priests, scribes, or even Jesus’ own disciples fully recognized that He was the Messiah.

Jesus asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

By asking this question of those who had called Him the Son of David, He was confirming their faith—whether they truly believed that He was the Messiah.

When they confessed, “Yes, Lord,” Jesus touched their eyes and healed them.

This was not merely a physical healing.

It was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy concerning the work of the Messiah, who would give sight to the blind.

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone that He had healed their eyes.

He did this because He did not want people to think of Him merely as a healer of diseases.

If they did, they would fail to encounter the true Messiah.

Nevertheless, they went out and spread the news about Him throughout the region.

### Jesus Heals a Mute Man

Next, a man who was demon-possessed and unable to speak was brought to Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.

<sup>33</sup> And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.”

Matthew records that when people brought a man with a speech impairment to Jesus, the demon within him was driven out, and he began to speak.

This also was a work promised in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah, bearing witness that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

The crowd, witnessing the man who had been unable to speak now speaking after the demon was cast out, marveled and said that nothing like this had ever been seen before.

In contrast, the Pharisees showed a completely opposite reaction.

They did not deny the miracle itself, but they gave a strained explanation, claiming that it was done by the power of the prince of demons.

Even though they saw the Messiah before their very eyes, they failed to recognize Him—thus they themselves were the truly blind and mute.

When Jesus went into Gentile regions and cast out the demon from a man who could not speak, enabling him to speak, it was not merely an act of healing. Rather, it was a demonstration that the kingdom of God had come and that the kingdom of Satan was being overthrown.

As Jesus continued to teach the things of heaven, proclaim the kingdom of God, and heal the sick, He revealed and made known that He is the Messiah.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus had compassion on the crowds, who were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

This was how Jesus looked upon the people of Israel.

They were like sheep that had lost their shepherd, wandering in dangerous fields, exhausted and worn out.

The phrase “had compassion” here means to feel such deep pity that it is as if one’s very inward parts are moved.

It is like the compassion of a father who, when his son—who had taken his inheritance and gone to a distant country—wasted everything in reckless living and returned home, saw him from afar, was filled with compassion, ran to him, embraced him, kissed him, clothed him with the best robe, put a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet, and even prepared a feast for him.

What these people needed were workers for the harvest.

Jesus told His disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, and He taught them to ask God to send out workers into His harvest field.

<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.  
<sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

A harvest worker refers to a servant who does the work of God.  
God’s work is accomplished through those whom He sends.

Beloved members of the Church of Godly Dreams,  
Jesus’ healing of the blind and the mute is the fulfillment of the Word in Isaiah 35.

As it is written in Isaiah 35:3–6:

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Matthew, with the passage from Isaiah in mind, presents the miracles performed by Jesus as evidence that He is the Messiah.

Jesus is not merely one who heals diseases;  
He is the source of life who raises the dead, heals the sick, and sets the oppressed free.

He is the Messiah.

Jesus came into this world and opened a new era—the age of the Holy Spirit—revealing the kingdom of God in a world bound by the Law and tradition.

He has reached out His hand to us, who were wandering and weary like sheep without a shepherd.

When we take hold of His hand, we receive the forgiveness of sins and gain new life.

Those of us who have received forgiveness and new life in Him are now called to become workers for the harvest for those who have not yet experienced this grace. We must share this grace and live as workers who build up the kingdom of God. This is the mission of those who have been saved first.

May we hold fast to the life, compassion, and the gospel of the new era that Jesus Christ has shown us, and may we live as those who joyfully respond to God's calling as His workers.