



Only Fools Laugh and Doubt

When Jesus arrived at the official's home, he noticed the noisy crowds and heard the funeral music. He said, "Go away, for the girl isn't dead; she's only asleep." But the crowd laughed at him. When the crowd was finally outside, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up!

Matthew 9:23-35 (NLT)

Prayer Focus: It seemed obvious. The girl was dead and it was time to move on with funeral preparations. The crowd had determined that her fate was sealed. The only person with any shred of hope left was her father. He sought Jesus out, saying, "You can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand upon her." A desperate father grasping at the last thread of hope. But he believed, and that was enough to move Jesus' heart to follow the man home. In spite of this father's aching heart, the people around him laughed when Jesus "misspoke" about the girl only being asleep. Jesus then dismissed the unbelievers to laugh and doubt outside. He did exactly as the father believed—He touched the girl by taking her hand and bringing her back to life! Imagine the crowd's reaction when they realized that they had ridiculed the One who had the power to heal. But even more so, imagine the father's joy while hugging his daughter and rejoicing over the truth that even a shred of belief can summon the healing touch of Jesus!

Day 1: Praise Jesus that nothing is impossible for Him!

Day 2: Confess times you have feared even praying for healing because you doubted that Jesus would answer.

Day 3: Repent of any heart attitudes that limit your belief in Christ for the seemingly impossible.

Day 4: Ask the Lord to release a greater level of faith in you to believe when others doubt.

Day 5: Invite the Lord to radically change your heart to believe Him for greater demonstrations of His power.

Day 6: Pray that your church will become known as a place where Jesus is welcomed to do the impossible.

Day 7: Pray that the lost will experience salvation and the healing power of Jesus that frees them from doubt.

Taken from the book "Come, Lord Jesus: transformation prayer guide"

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Jesus Christ as Our Healer

Jesus stunned the world with His healing power. Granted, people were amazed by His teaching and intrigued by His claims to be the Son of God. They watched with curiosity when He challenged the religious system of the day. But they were absolutely awestruck and changed forever by His compassionate healing touch.

Many times in the Gospels, it is recorded that Jesus healed *every* person, *every* disease, and *every* demonic stranglehold that was presented to Him. Matthew relates that as Jesus traveled throughout Galilee teaching and preaching about the Good News of the Kingdom, He authenticated His claims through the power of healing:

...And he healed people who had every kind of sickness and disease. News about him spread far beyond the borders of Galilee so that the sick was soon coming to be healed from as far away as Syria. And whatever their illness and pain, or if they were possessed by demons, or were epileptics, or were paralyzed—he healed them all. Large crowds followed him wherever he went... (Matthew 4:23-25, NLT).

The Gospels do not record times when Jesus looked upon the sick and told them that they should live with their illnesses. His heart of compassion always overtook Him, and the result was that multitudes of people were set free and restored in an instant.

The only time it seems that Jesus was hindered in His healing was in his hometown of Nazareth. Those who knew Him were offended by Him, and as a result He healed only a few of the sick. Their unbelief restricted the unleashing of mighty miracles (Mark 6:1-6).

It is obvious in reading through Scripture that Jesus' heart was for all people to be healed. Jesus' authority and power to heal went unchallenged by even the most dramatic and seemingly hopeless situations. If a leper needed to have his skin and body completely restored—no problem. The fact that Lazarus had been dead for several days was not an issue for Jesus when it came time to call him forth from the dead. Even those tormented by demons, with supernatural strength to break chains and terrify people, found instant freedom through Jesus' healing touch.

As you pray through *Jesus Christ as Our Healer*, invite the Lord to instill in you a renewed faith that fully embraces His power to heal and restore. Perhaps we need a refreshing of our belief!

Transformation: Jesus in Our Midst

As we pray about transformation; we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like:

A transformed community is:

- A neighbourhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

Community transformation is indicated when:

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God. (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty. (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community
- (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

(Source: The Sentinel Group)

About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Since 1993, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

Prayer Transformation Ministries *provides Christ-centered awareness, training, and equipping for personal and societal transformation.*

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Prayer Transformation Ministries serves by:

- Teaching/writing on principles of revival and transformation.
- Encouraging local churches to develop "cultures of prayer."
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.
- Networking intercessors and prayer movements.
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Producing *Call to Prayer* radio spots.
- Encouraging a children's prayer movement.
- Training and networking local church prayer leaders.

Website: www.prayertransformation.com