

DCF:

It didn't look like much. Just 14 pounds of a silvery white soft metal formed into a shape of a ball. If you saw it on the shelf of a machine shop, you wouldn't look twice. But oh, what power was in that nondescript ball.

You see, that metal ball was a ball of enriched uranium. Placed inside a triggering mechanism (you can call it a bomb) it is ready to unleash almost unimaginable power. Unfortunately, it was. On August 6, 1945 it was dropped on Hiroshima and detonated. Those 14 pounds of uranium killed over 80,000 people and destroyed 90% of the city. Unimaginable power contained in a small, common looking ball.

When Jesus was here on earth, He was like that ball of uranium. If you just looked at Jesus walking the dusty roads of Capernaum, you'd see a regular guy. You could easily mistake Him for a wandering carpenter looking for work. But oh, what a mistake that would be! What power was hidden in that seemingly ordinary human being.

Today, we'll see the sometimes hidden truth about Jesus. Today we “**SEE THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST!**” We'll see His power over disease, over the devil and how His power supports His message. So, come with me and see His almighty power.

Part One: Over disease

Once again, just like last week, we are shown another aspect of Jesus. Today, we focus on the power that Jesus has as true God. So often we focus just on His humanity while He was here on earth. We remember His gentleness and humility. We think of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the One who lovingly takes care of us. We remember how He remained silent before Pilate, humbly accepting the unjust sentence of crucifixion. We remember His tears as He approached Jerusalem and how His heart went out so often to people who were troubled in any way. That's part of His nature, and we rejoice in His love and concern for us as well.

But we so often fail to remember that He is true God. Even though His full nature was often hidden while He was here on earth, we must keep in mind that He is fully and completely God. We must remember that He has all authority, all power in heaven and earth. The Bible reminds us that everything that has been made has been made through Him. The Bible reminds us that He is the One who is directing and controlling all events in this world for the benefit of believers. Remember the power that Jesus, as part of the Triune God showed? The flood, the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites as they left Egypt, the time He caused the sun to stand still. And then we have the events of His life on earth which showed us that He is God.

Every once in a while, Jesus gives us glimpses of His power. Like today. Not only did He heal Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, He healed many more. “***The whole town gathered at the door,³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.***” (v. 33-34)

Now, you might wonder why these people waited until night before they came to be healed. Well, it was because it was the Sabbath. They had grown up with the idea you did nothing except focus on God during the Sabbath. But when the sun went down, the Sabbath was over. Then you could cook a meal, or mend a cloak, or go to Jesus and be healed of disease. Jesus shows us His power as God by healing the diseases of many people.

Jesus is still using His power to heal, even today. There are times when we don't notice our Lord at work. We recover from surgery or some sickness and instinctively credit the skill of the doctors or the medicine that we took. Rarely will we thank God for His effort on our behalf. But is it not true that God is working through our bodies to heal us? Is it not true that God has a hand in designing medicines and techniques that serve us? Is it not true that He gave the doctors the skills they have? Jesus is still healing us, using His power even if we can't see it. As the Bible says “***For in Him we live and move and have our being.***” (Acts 17:28)

And sometimes we can. There are instances where a patient recovers from a disease and the doctors have no clue to why they are cured. Who did it? Jesus. Doctors practice. God acts.

Jesus has all power in heaven and on earth, not only in the physical realm but also in the spiritual realm. That comes through very, very clearly in our Bible section for today.

Part Two: Over the devil

In Jesus' time, demon possession was more evident than it is today. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven along with their leader Satan. They entered the bodies and minds of human beings. Sometimes they caused physical problems. Sometimes they caused emotional problems.

In every case, they tormented individuals.

Jesus drove them out by His power, the power He had as God. He spoke and they left. That's it. His words had power, the power of God. And did you notice that He also had the power to keep them from speaking? **"He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was."** Jesus didn't need and didn't want the demons' witness as to who He was. His power spoke for itself. And who needs an enemy telling the world who you are? That would cause confusion and give the impression that they were somehow on the same side.

Jesus' almighty power over Satan and his followers is seen most clearly on the cross. There, Jesus conquered sin, death and the power of the devil. His power shown through most clearly at His resurrection, when even the gates of death and hell couldn't hold Him. Because He lives, we too will live with Him forever in paradise.

We don't need to fear the devil's power because Jesus has the ultimate power over all things. Some people don't see that, do they? We see the chaos of this world and wonder if Jesus is truly in charge. We hear of killings, insurrections and wars, abuse of all sorts, climate change and economic upheaval. We see the increase of suicides, drug abuse and fractured families. We look at all these events and wonder if Jesus has the power to control this world, or even if He cares.

He does. He is allowing these things to happen for two reasons. One, to remind us that this world is not home and soon He will come to cleanse it of sin and take us to heaven. Secondly, He allows these things to happen so that people will repent of their sins and turn to Him. But never forget that Jesus has power over all things. We can trust His power. We can trust His decision making, for He is making all things turn out for our spiritual good. It may hurt, but He has our soul in His heart.

Part Three: It supports His message

Jesus showed us His power while He was here on earth. Did you ever wonder why He did all those miracles? Oh, He did them certainly because He cared about the people He met. He wanted to relieve them of pain and suffering. But that's not the main reason He did them. He did them to prove His message was true. He did them to prove His message was from God.

And may I ask you - which one is more important? A miracle led to a better life here on earth for - what, 50 years? Jesus' message leads to a better life for all eternity. If you had to pick between the two, which one would you choose? Perfect health for 80 years, or a perfect life until the end of time and even beyond? Jesus understood the values of His miracles and His teaching. He put His teaching first. Listen again to verse 38 **Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."**

His message brings peace between us and our Lord. By His power He has won our salvation and given us the greatest gift of all - life with Him in heaven. That's the message He came to bring. That's the message we want to share with as many as we can. That's the message that brings peace, hope, comfort and relief as we face the trials of this world. Trust the Lord. Trust His power. Trust His message.

That 14 pound ball of uranium killed over 80,000 people and destroyed a city. It was a terrible weapon. And I pray that we never see another nuclear bomb exploded on our planet. But the power of Jesus Christ, unimaginably more powerful, saves millions. May the power of Jesus continue to bring many more to life.

AMEN