

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Back in October, I read a news story about a 14-month-old baby they call the miracle child. This boy, when he was just 2 weeks old, was taken to the hospital by his parents when they noticed he was ashen and cold. When they got to the hospital, his heart stopped. Doctors tried for 30 minutes to get his heart restarted, but it was to no avail. So, the doctor went out to bring the parents in so they could say their last goodbyes. But when the nurse handed over the boy to his dad, he suddenly started moving and breathing again. The medical team went back to work, and today he is happy bouncing a 14-month-old boy. To this day, they don't know what happened.

Today, we look at another young child – older than the boy I just told you about – who suffered from a fatal disease and miraculously got better. This time, we know why. Jesus intervened and gave this child the gift of good health. Once again, Jesus revealed a little about himself via this miracle. With just a word, he healed a child of a fatal disease. There was no fanfare or loud shouting. Rather unlike the TV-type preachers yelling “Be Healed”, he says, “your child will get better.” Talk about a simple statement of fact! Doctors could only dream about this level of confidence in their healing abilities.

So, what does this tell us about Christ? First, it tells us that he can do what he says. It establishes a track record. Just think about what kind of credibility this action built for Jesus in the Official. We don't need to think about it—the Bible tells us. The official and all his household believed. Second, it tells us that Jesus cares about us physically. Jesus is not just interested in our souls, as some would have you believe. He is interested in the whole person, which includes our physical bodies. Now, some people have drawn a false dichotomy between the physical and the spiritual, usually to elevate one over the other. You can see it today when people seek spiritual experiences but spurn religion. We Christians are even guilty of this. Take, for instance, the popular song “Jesus Lover of My Soul.” God loves more than our souls, as this incident shows us. God loves us body and soul.

What kind of Creator would he be if he created something he hated? It would be like us making the best example of something. It would be like me grilling the perfect steak—just the right amount of pinkness in the center, covered with fresh-roasted garlic and olive oil —and then saying, “This is horrible, I hate it.” Would you say that if you made your favourite food? No,

you'd probably go on and on about how you loved it, right? Well, God did the same thing when he created people. Genesis 1:27-28 reads, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.” You don't bless things you don't like. It goes on in verse 31, “And God saw everything that he had made and behold it was Good.” God made us good, but we made ourselves go bad like so many forgotten leftovers in the back of the refrigerator. But God shows us, in restoring the health of this young child, that he is the divine healer who wishes to restore us to the way he created us. Good. As the Divine healer, he can heal more than just our physical ailments.

The divine healer, as I said, does not love just a part of us; he loves all of us. He seeks not only to restore our bodies but also to restore our souls. Because it is not only our bodies that have been ruined by sin. Our souls are also tainted. Sin is rather pervasive; once it gets in, it spreads and lingers, and you never seem to be able to shake it, kind of like the smell of rotting food. At the seminary, we had a communal fridge that we could all use, but people weren't always that great about cleaning out their leftovers. Some of us believed the leftovers were from the first students who attended back in the 1980s; it was so bad. The smell, of course, was evil. Everything that was put in there smelled and tasted like that stench, and if somebody opened the fridge, the entire lounge stank for the next five or so minutes. It remained that way until a homemade biohazard sign was hung on the refrigerator, asking people to clean out their leftovers.

This is how it is with sin in our lives. It permeates everything, tainting everything that comes near it. Worst of all, we deal with the leftovers of people who came long before us, because we are all stuck with the sin of Adam. And it's bad enough that we all should have little biohazard signs. Hey, I could be like that comedian and go around saying, “Here's your sign!” But we have not been left to wallow in the stench of sin. For the divine healer has come to cleanse us of sin and excise it from us. Like a doctor cleaning a wound, Jesus, the divine healer, cleans us of our sin. With his very blood, Jesus scours us clean, removing any trace of sin, so that on the last day, he can present us to his father sparkling and new. But it is not just cleaning out of sin that Jesus does; he also heals the wounds that sin causes, namely, the gaping wound that has fatally damaged our relationship with God.

“Jesus Heals” John 4:46b-53 In Voluntate Tua 2025

Without treatment, this wound is ultimately fatal—the wages of sin are death. But by binding the wound we have caused with our sin, Jesus restores us to life. There is no wound the divine healer cannot fix, whether it is a near-fatal disease or the always-fatal disease of sin; Christ, the divine healer, can bring about restoration of health. So just as Jesus healed that official's child, so can he heal your body and soul, for he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Amen.