

2 Questions...

First: What is a homonym?

- 1 'word' with 2 (or more) different meanings
- Examples: "bank" = where you put money,
or where you stand by a river
- What happens when a homonym gets translated?
- Sometimes the ambiguity is an important thing → like humor
- "We'll never run out of math teachers because they always **multiply**."

Second: What is the difference between "healed" and "saved"?

- healed = made healthy again
- saved = rescued from disaster or judgment
- Does Jesus care more about our being "healed" or "saved"?

1



Sōzō
Luke 8:40-56

bib.ly/Luke8.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

2

Setting for the people in Jesus' day (from Luke)

Jesus **drove out an impure Spirit** in the synagogue

Jesus **healed** Simon's mother of a high fever

Jesus **healed** many people of various sicknesses at Simon's house

Jesus **cast out many demons**

Jesus **healed** a man of leprosy and paralysis

Jesus brought a widow's only son **back to life** at his funeral

Jesus **calmed a deadly storm** on the lake

Jesus **healed** the man of a "legion" of evil spirits

Jesus repeatedly brought blessing to body and soul!

3

Setting for the readers of Luke (chapter 8)

Jesus taught that there are many responses to Him, ranging from **rejection** to **empty good** to **fruitful good**

- The key for fruitfulness: "hear, retain, persevere" and "hear and put into practice"

Jesus rescued people in the storms of life:

- 1) storms in nature
- 2) storms of evil spirits
- 3) **storms of illness**
- 4) **storms of death**

4

Luke 8:40-42a

Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. → expecting help and blessing...

Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

When Jesus arrived, people expected Him to bring help and healing and blessing

synagogue leader = powerful, probably wealthy leader

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Luke 8:42b-48

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

“Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

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Luke 8:49-56

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”

Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.”

They laughed at him knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

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σώζω or Sōzō: A Greek word meaning...

– To **save, rescue, preserve, heal**

The devil takes away the word “so that they might not believe and be **saved**.” 8:12

“the demon-possessed man had been **cured**.” 8:36

“your faith as **healed** you.” 8:48

“she will be **healed**.” 8:50

“The Son of Man came to seek and to **save** the lost.” 19:10

Jesus wants to bring blessing to both body and soul

→ **The body will ultimately die...and be brought to life again**

And Jesus brings blessing to body and relationships

→ **Sometimes blessing the body is a means to rescue the soul**

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The Big Idea

**People knew that
to touch Jesus with faith brings Sōzō**
salvation, rescue & healing

**The Church and Christians
are to bring the Sōzō touch of Jesus
to every person we encounter
both inside and outside the Church**

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Jesus gives 'life-giving water'
to those who put their faith in Him

He always gives **life to the soul**
to those who trust in Him

He also delights
in bringing **healing and wholeness**
to the body and relationships
as we follow Him

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**What we have freely received
we are to freely give**

- Giving life to the soul
with the Good News of Jesus
- Bringing blessing (healing and wholeness)
to the body and relationships

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"But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?" *2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

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**Encountering Christians and
encountering the Church should seem
a lot like touching Jesus**

This should be the Church's reputation!

This should be OUR reputation!

Let us...

- confess
- repent (change our heart and ways)
- seek to be the sōzō presence of Jesus!

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Application

Pursue Jesus for sōzō

- Eternal life for the soul, and blessing of body and relationships
- “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”
→ This hasn’t changed! He is still doing this work
- Jesus rescues and heals when nothing else and no one else can!
- Pursue Jesus **with faith**:
 - Not all who touched Jesus experienced sōzō
- Pursue Jesus **with courage and perseverance**:
 - even when people and circumstances tell us or tempt us to doubt that He can help and to stop seeking



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Application

Pursue Jesus for sōzō

- **Help each other** believe this and pursue Jesus
 - **through** ‘natural’ strategies
 - pray with faith AND follow the doctor’s advice
 - **around** ‘natural’ strategies
 - pray with faith AND follow Jesus’ words, even when they don’t match the wisdom of the world
 - Bless those who curse, pray for enemies, ...
 - sometimes we experience **visible miracles**
→ when there is no natural explanation
 - sometimes we experience **hidden miracles**
→ when we can see the means God’s has used
 - often we keep trusting when the miracles seem absent



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Application

Boldly be a channel of sōzō for others → Jesus in the church

- “The Church is here to seek and to save the lost”
 - Jesus working through the Church
- Doing as Jesus said...
 - “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim **good news to the poor.**
He has sent me to **proclaim freedom for the prisoners**
and **recovery of sight for the blind,**
to **set the oppressed free,**
to proclaim the year of **the Lord’s favor.”** *Luke 4:18–19*



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Application

Boldly be a channel of sōzō for others → Jesus in the church

- Bring life to the soul AND be a blessing on body and relationships
- By prayer and action
- Individually → by faith in the work of Jesus
 - Whenever we have contact with others
 - When we go out of our way to bless others
- Together → by faith in the work of Jesus
 - Looking for ways to bring the sōzō of Jesus to people
 - Bringing life to the soul through the message of Jesus
 - Bringing blessing to body and relationships as Jesus did



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*Application***Boldly be a channel of sōzō for others → Jesus in the church**

- Begin each day...
 - Pray and consider: how might the Spirit use me and us today to bring the sōzō of Jesus to the people I meet?
 - Pray and consider: where should I and we choose to go to do this work?

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*Application***Boldly be a channel of sōzō for others → Jesus in the church**

- What do we hope shines bright?
 - the Spirit and sōzō of Jesus
- Where will His light be most dramatic?
 - in dark places that lack peace and justice
- How does He shine?
 - as we trust Him to show His power and glory, and as we follow His ways while trusting His presence to empower us and to His work
 - without fear ... overcoming obstacles ... taking risks ... crying out ... even when there is no more human hope

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The overriding reputation of the Church & of Christians

- **Should not be...**
 - our political positions
 - our status or success or credentials
 - our “goodness”
 - what we are against
- **Should be...**
 - the presence and aroma of Christ
 - especially His mission to seek and to sōzō those in need
 - “They were all expecting Jesus”
and they brought to Him the ones in need of sōzō

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- **Teachers and students** who are known especially for being compassionate and patient and helpful
- **Colleagues** who have empathy and humility
- **Customers and employees** who walk in love
- **People** who live not by fear but by joy-filled hope
- **Parents and children** who love and learn and respect together
- **People in need** who let others’ needs come first

**We are called to confess, to repent,
and to plead with Jesus to make us more like Him!**

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to touch Jesus with faith brings Sōzō**
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Do you need His sōzō (saving and healing touch) today?

- Cry out to Him
- He will bring eternal life and blessing in His way and in His time

Do you want His sōzō (saving and healing touch) to be your reputation and to be our reputation?

- Cry out to Him
- Walk in His ways
- Together

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