

Sōzō Luke 8:40-56

First: What is a homonym?

1 'word' with 2 (or more) different meanings

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”?

Setting for 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!

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

Luke 8:40-59

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

σῶζω 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

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

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

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

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

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!

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

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

Boldly be a channel of sozo 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...

Luke 4:18-19

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

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?

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

Conclusion

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

Reflection Questions

1. How have you experienced the sōzō of Jesus in your life? How have you experienced it from the Church and from the followers of Jesus?
2. Where do you need to experience the sōzō of Jesus?
3. Where has the Church, or our church, or where have we failed to be the aroma of Christ in the world?
4. Where has the Church, or our church, or where have we effectively to be the aroma of Christ in the world?
5. What steps can you take, and what steps can we take together, to bring the sōzō of Jesus in the world?