***Lesson: God’s Healing Miracles***

***July 28, 2019***

**From Mike:**

I was only in Junior High, but I signed up with a group from our school that was going over to a small south Georgia town where the churches there were having an old-fashioned tent Gospel meeting for three weeks. We were going to help hand out flyers all day Saturday inviting people to attend. We joined a large group of campaigners and headed out to canvass the town. We went door-to-door knocking and then personally inviting every person we could. It was the mid-sixties, and it was normal for churches to do such things back then—and generally safe too! I remember it being a fun experience as we knocked doors all day, breaking only for a quick lunch at Krystal Burgers, and then attending the Gospel Meeting that night.

 What I remember most was meeting and talking with an elderly couple who were sitting on their front porch and more than happy to talk to a young whipper-snapper like me. The old man had quite a story to tell about how God miraculously gave him back his ability to play his banjo after he hadn’t touched it in decades. Boy, was he filled with passion about it and shared his story with firm conviction. I remember looking at his elderly wife, sitting back a little further on the porch and quietly listening. She was clearly living with a handicap as I could see her withered leg and crutches resting on the floor.

 As I smiled and listened to the man’s story, all I could think about—and bite my tongue about—was how could God miraculously give you the ability to play a banjo rather than heal your wife’s crippled leg? Is your banjo more important than her need to walk without crutches? When I walked away and moved on to the next house, I remember how indignant I felt about that ridiculous story. Not only did I not believe that God did a miracle but I couldn’t wrap my head around the inconsistency of thinking it was more important than his wife’s health. I’m not sure I’ve changed my opinion yet, but I don’t question what God might do to carry out His plan. A banjo? Hmmm?

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