

Donnybrook

11 January 2022

Welcome

Jesus did indeed perform wonders. The risk is that we read about them as somehow in the past.

Topic

This is not the Gospel writer's intention. On the contrary, the evangelist offers these stories so that we might experience the grace of God today.

Steps

During the ministry of Jesus, the healing stories – of which there are many – were intended as pointing to the kingdom of God. God wants our well-being, our “salvation” to use a technical term. The lists of recipients is long: the blind, the lame, the deaf, epileptics, various complaints such as dropsy, the woman bent over double, the possessed and so on. These are not meant as stories about some very fortunate individuals in the past: they are meant to be about us.

During the ministry the wonders performed by Jesus were tokens of the kingdom of God. At the level of Mark's Gospel, this goes up a grade. Mark writes because he believes God has acted in Jesus' death and resurrection. The miracles stories symbolise God's gift in Jesus and invite us to recognise our own need and to come with open hearts before the grace of God.

Conclusion

We can always use the stories to reflect on ourselves. In what way I hobbling through life? In what ways am I blind to others and to God? In what ways am I somehow bound and held captive. Mark would like us to recognise ourselves in the story and to recognise the God of grace, who wants our well-being, if only we would turn to him, as Hannah did.