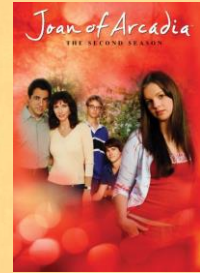


Sermon – Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

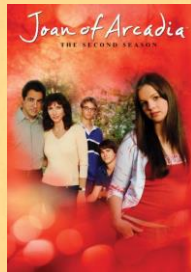
## Joan of Arcadia

- TV Show 2003-05
- Highly Recommended!
- Joan is a Jr. in high school who talks to God
- God appears in many guises and asks Joan to do something



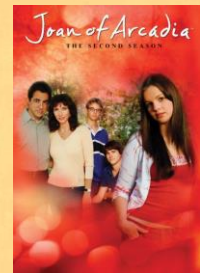
## Joan of Arcadia

- Joan's older brother Kevin almost died in a car accident and is in a wheelchair
- Joan sees Kevin smoking at a playground
- God appears as a little girl at the playground
- <https://youtu.be/Yap5iAm6bWU?t=16m>

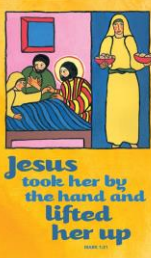


## Joan of Arcadia

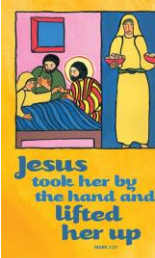
- My son asked, "Did Jesus show favoritism when he healed people in the Gospels?"
- How would you answer him?



## Did Jesus show favoritism?



- My answer: Jesus's healing wasn't primarily about healing individuals; it was about healing our human institutions of healing
- healing our health systems
- Good News: Jesus came to save *us*



## Jesus Came to Save *Us*

- Not just *us* as *individuals* – it begins there, but doesn't end there
- Jesus also came to save *us* as *systems, institutions, cultures* – even our politics!
- The what happened?! What's changed in 2000 years?
- Democracy, equality movements ...
- Health care! Saving our health systems is #1 example
- Last week's Gospel: "unclean spirit"

## Health Systems – Old and New

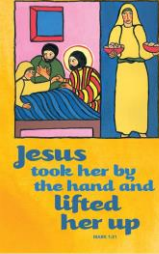
### Old

- Spiritual-focused
- Spiritual-moral explanations based on Good-bad, clean-unclean, us-them, etc
- Treatment: religious, political
- Blame the victim

### New

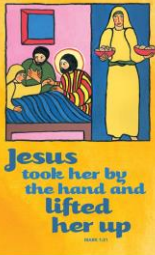
- Physical-focused
- Natural explanations of 'what is' – morally neutral
- Treatment: scientific, medicinal
- Tend to/Care for the victim

## Jesus Came to Save *Us*



- Why are the rest of our institutions and systems still such a mess?
- Answer: bracketing out the spiritual-moral is both the success and the limitation of science
- The next step: submit the spiritual dimension of being human to the morally-neutral methods of science
- In two weeks, we begin Lent with Jesus temptation in the wilderness while *praying*
- Miracles

## Glimpsing Spiritual Disease



- One Basic Symptom: Us-Them thinking (good-bad, clean-unclean)
- Alive and well today: Democrat-Republican, White people-People of Color, citizen-immigrant, male-female, etc.
- Treatment begins at the cross: Jesus comes as the outsider ... Them
- Baptism: no longer Jew-Gentile, male-female, slave-free
- Holy Communion: the welcome table of forgiven sinners



Jesus  
took her  
by the  
hand and  
lifted  
her up  
MARK 1:31