
Come Ready

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Healing

Expect your healing when you ask Jesus for it.

Introduction

Every once in a while a brave preacher steps up to the pulpit and gingerly approaches the subject mustering the courage to announce it with all the boldness he can, “Today I’m going to talk about healing!” Not more than three minutes into his message you realize he’s talking about emotional healing. Don’t get me wrong. Emotional healing is also important and touches the lives of many Christians and unbelievers. But when I see the word, “healing” the first thing I think of, and not just because I’m in a wheelchair, is physical healing. Why would a pastor be afraid to preach on this subject when the Bible is littered with examples of God healing people physically? Is it that he knows at the end of the sermon at the altar if God does not heal those asking they will turn to him and ask, “Y wasn’t I healed?”

When you hear sermons about healing you always hear about what Jesus said, the methods he used or faith for healing. While there is a clear connection between faith and healing, there are many preachers who tell people when they are not healed that it’s their fault and they didn’t have enough faith. What would we discover if we looked closely at healing in the New Testament? You rarely hear about what kinds of people Jesus healed or their situation or perspective. You never hear about the conversation before Jesus did these amazing miracles.

Jesus’ grace is greater than unbelief.

John 5:5–9 ESV

One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

Trusting in human means leaves you in the lurch (John 5:5-9).

- Jesus meets this man and knows he has been this way for a long time, 38 years. Perhaps this was all of his life or at least most of it. This man has gotten used to his situation over these many years. Jesus asks the perceptive question, “Do you want to be healed?”
- It may not be that he does not believe he can be healed. He’s hanging out at a pool that is known to heal the first person who gets in after it is stirred. He has put all his hopes for healing into the promise of this pool.
- When Jesus asks the question, “Do you want to be healed?” his answer is an excuse. He complains that no one puts him in the pool after it is stirred, the source of the pool’s power to heal. It was believed the first person in the pool after it was stirred would be healed. Had this man become so used to his circumstances that he had given up all hope?
- Instead of answering with a resounding yes the man provides the reason he thinks he has not been healed. He learns that day that he was trusting in the wrong means for healing. He finally met the Great Physician!

Acts 3:2–8 ESV

And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name

of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Getting used to sickness closes the door (Acts 3:2-8).

- This lame man had built up a routine over the years. He would go to the Temple and be placed on the popular spot and beg for money. This was his only option to maintain his livelihood. But he had settled for less. He had given up on the possibility of healing. When Jesus asked the question do you want to be healed
- He was probably used to people ignoring him or not giving him any money just as many react today to the homeless on the streets So when Peter says to him, “Look at us!” the man probably imagines they are not going to turn him away. They’ve got his full attention and I can only imagine his downcast gaze when Peter says that he doesn’t have any money
- Who knows what ran through his mind when Peter told him to rise and walk. All of a sudden his ankles were strong again and he was being pulled up by Peter and walking on his own!

Illustration: Today we have a system in place when the church is unable to help the poor and the disabled. The government steps in and provide Social Security help. While it may not be what the disabled or poor were used to, it is something. The problem is that over time we can get used to our situation.

- This man had gotten used to the system and used to being lame. He had come to accept being lame and relying on the system.. Granted, it has been 38 years! But we must never lose hope and we keep waiting on the Lord until his time comes for us!
- This is an amazing miracle! The man’s ankles became complete and were strengthened. The power of God healed this man completely so that he could walk and run even though he spent so much time as a lame man.
- Faith is not measured in units of time.

Jesus healed people for different reasons.

I want to list several reasons given throughout the Gospels of why Jesus healed people. We have already seen that even people without faith were healed by Jesus.

Jesus had compassion.

- Two blind men at Jericho (Matthew 20:29-34).
- Matthew 14:14; 15:32; Mark 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13

Jesus fulfilled prophecy.

- Jesus heals every one – Matthew 4:23-24
- Jesus heals the man with the withered hand In the synagogue– Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-10
- Jesus heals many in Capernaum – Matthew 8:16-17 [Luke 4:40-41]
- Jesus healed the blind and the lame – Matthew 21:14-16
- In response to John the Baptist’s disciples Jesus healed many – Luke 7:18-23

Healing is for God’s glory.

- The man born blind lived his entire life in darkness for one moment of glorious light so that everyone could witness God’s glory in setting him free (John 9).

There is a spiritual side to physical healing.

1. Oftentimes in the New Testament, there is a connection between sin and sickness.
 - There is a paralyzed man with four friends who care so much about him and have so much faith that Jesus can heal him that they cut a hole in the roof and lowered him right in front of Jesus (Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26).

Matthew 9:2 *ESV*

And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

Matthew 9:5 ESV

For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?

- Jesus’ response to this situation has two incredible elements to his statement.
 - i. We are given no background on this paralyzed man. But Jesus says is because of the friends’ faith that he heals him.
 - ii. Jesus equates forgiveness of sins with physical healing.
- Sin leads to death and on the road to death sickness is an ally to sin.
- Jesus places emphasis on our souls before our bodies. He wants to heal but it starts with the sinful soul. He works from the inside out.
- **Application:** To receive your physical healing you must first deal with your soul and your spiritual house. Get rid of all sin and then Jesus is ready to completely and fully heal you of your sickness. He’s after your whole person.
- Returning to the man born blind, taking into consideration this connection between sin and sickness, the disciples ask Jesus about him, “Who sinned, this man or his parents?”(John 9:2) They made the connection but Jesus presented the third option we talked about earlier.

James 5:14–16 ESV

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

- One more example from James 5:14-16 calls for prayer from the elders with specific instructions on praying for healing. The very next sentence tells us that if sins have been committed they will be forgiven. The word for “save”

in the original language includes the spiritual salvation, physical healing and deliverance from demons.

1. Demonic activity and its entrance to God's healing.
 - When the Gospels reference Jesus healing the sick they also include demonic possession as part of his ministry (I.e.Luke 6:17-19).
 - The deliverance from demons of Mary Magdalene is also mentioned alongside of healing Jesus did in his ministry (Luke 8:2).
 - **Application:** Jesus wants to make you whole, save your soul, heal your body and set you free from demonic possession. If you are dealing with any of these, Jesus has taken care of it. Nothing that makes you incomplete as his creation with his image in you remains when he is finished.

Jesus was looking for faith.

1. A Hopeful Faith – The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48)
 - This extraordinary woman wished for a solution to a problem. She had seen every doctor possible with no results. Her situation was hopeless except for one variable – Jesus.
 - She approached him in the crowd determined to put her hopeful faith into action. All of her eggs were in one basket. She didn't have any other plans. All other avenues were closed to her.
 - In a hopeless situation reach out with a hopeful faith and receive a miracle.
 - **Application:** It doesn't matter what the doctors say. They do their best and God has given them wisdom. They can be very helpful but when there is nothing left that they can do, we know we can turn to the King of the universe who made our bodies. Whose report will you believe? Come to Jesus! You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.
2. An Expectant Faith – Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:42)

- We move from a desperate woman seeking hope in a hopeless situation to a man who would not be stopped until he was face-to-face with his healer.
- He was a man on a mission and refused to be deterred by anyone in the crowd that tried to shut him up. In his moment with Jesus his one request was immediately granted because of his faith.
- [Other examples include: The two blind men (Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34), The centurion and his servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10, The paralytic with four friends (Matthew 9:1-8?; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26), The woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48) Along with the people of Gennesaret who also touched the hem of his garment (Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56), The official's son (John 4:50).]

Feed your faith!

- Jesus said all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20). That's a very tiny amount! Some people like to pressure you if your prayer goes unanswered that you lack faith. But we have seen that Jesus heals for other reasons as well. What if they did not have enough faith when they prayed for you? You never see hyper faith preachers take the blame that way.

Illustration: Everyone has faith. We all believe that when we flip a switch the lights will turn on or when we sit on a seat it will hold us. Faith only needs an object. The object of our faith is a Person, Jesus.

- We have come to build a fortress – a fortress of faith. Faith needs fuel and we need reminded every once in a while of what Jesus can do. Here are some facts that should encourage your faith:
- There are 48 occurrences of Jesus healing people in the Gospels, some of them attested in multiple Gospels. In connection to healing miracles the word “immediately” is used 29 times in 28 verses (Matthew 8:3; 14:22, 27, 31; 20:34; Mark 1:23, 29, 30, 42; 2:8, 12, 29, 30, 42; 6:15, 54; 7:25; 9:15, 20, 24; 10:52; Luke 4:39; 5:13, 25; 8:44, 47; 13:13). Only once is a man gradually healed from blindness (Mark 8:22-26). So go for the gold and ask Jesus for immediate healing!

- Jesus is willing to heal (The Lepers – Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-41; Luke 5:12-16).
- Jesus healed everybody (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16-17; 9:35; 15:29-31). Specific places: Beyond the Jordan (Matthew 19:1-2), Capernaum (Luke 4:40-41; 9:11). Mark describes Jesus healing many, Specifying specific illnesses (Mark 1:32-34; 3:9-10).
- Doctors are gifted in diagnosing our illnesses, giving them a name. But I know a man whose name is higher and greater than any other name in heaven and on earth. All of these other things with their names must bow before him!

Conclusion

The more I study the subject of healing in God's Word, the more I realize it is more about our attitude before the Lord. Do we approach him wondering if or how he will heal? Think of the 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19). 10 lepers approached Jesus and he sent them all to the Temple to verify their healing. Only one returned with thankfulness. The way the story ends, I wonder, "Did the other nine's healing stay in effect after they failed to return and thank Jesus?" I don't imagine that Jesus would take back such a wonderful gift. But I know that when he heals me no one will doubt my gratefulness to Jesus!

Only a person who does not trust in Jesus to heal already has answers to questions that don't need to be asked. The answer to the question, "What happens if Jesus doesn't heal me?" before they pray for healing is only a sign of unbelief. The Fortress of faith has been built and the Lord is here. Don't wait any longer. Come ready! Come now. It is time to turn to the Lord with our cares.