

Outline: Introduction to Healing

Matthew 8:1-17

When He had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean." And Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be clean!" And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest. And offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

And when Jesus had entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, beseeching Him, and saying, "Lord, my son lies at home paralyzed and grievously tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my boy will be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go! And he goes; and to another, Come! And he comes; and to my servant, Do this! And he does it." When Jesus heard, He marveled and said to those who followed, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel..." And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go. And as you have believed, so let it be to you." And his boy was healed in that hour.

And when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law laid out and in a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. And evening coming on, they brought to Him many who had been possessed with demons. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "He took on Himself our weaknesses and bore our sicknesses."

Three things to notice about Jesus' healing ministry:

1. Jesus was willing to help
2. Jesus was able to help
3. The severity of the condition did not matter to Him.

We believe that what Jesus did *then*, He is still able to do today.

Why do we believe this?

For good reasons:

1. The Bible says Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and forever (Hebr. 13:8). This means He neither changes nor can He be changed.

2. The Bible teaches us that Jesus continues to heal through the ministry of His church.

3. God stills heals because He still loves us just as He did 2000 years ago.

4. We have seen healings and miracles both individually and in the life of our own church in response to prayer: healings from cancers, vision restored, and many other things that people in this room could testify to.

(Ask how many have ever received or witnessed a healing.)

This is why we have faith for healing tonight. And we want God to strengthen our faith for healing. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God. I'm going to give you **5 simple** principles from the Word to build faith for healing, and then we're going to pray for people.

1. God's will to heal you is *revealed* in the Word

a) Where do we get our "information" or theories about healing?

1. Sometimes from stories we've heard.

2. Sometimes from religious tradition.

3. Sometimes from a lack of experience.
4. Sometimes from unbelief.

b) But we need to realize that God's will to heal is revealed in His Word:

1. “...*I am the LORD who heals you...*” (Ex. 15:26)
2. “...*who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases...*”
(Ps. 103:3)
3. *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; **for God was with him.*** (Acts 10:38)
4. *Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today and forever.* (Heb. 13:8)

2. Healing reveals God's character, His love and compassion.

- a) Jesus is the exact representation of the Father: *He is the brightness of His [the Father's] glory, and the express image of His person, and*

upholds all things by the word of His power... (Heb. 1:3) (Jesus the Character or stamp of God's image)

b) *...He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9)*

c) Jesus Himself said that He did the works He saw His Father doing:

Amen, amen, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing: for whatsoever things he does, these also does the Son likewise. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that He himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may marvel. (John 5:20)

d) The works of Jesus were the works of the Father: *...the Father who dwells in me, he does the works (John 14:10)*

3. Healing was *released* to us through the grace of Jesus Christ

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isa. 53:5)

- Jesus was willing to suffer for us, and through His grace we can not only have eternal life but have healing released to our bodies now.

- His Healing work is tied up and connected with the fact that He saved us on the cross. Notice that this passage connects the cross with both forgiveness and healing.
- As we approach Him in faith we see that He is also willing to extend His healing hand. To the leper, He said: *I am willing; be cleansed...* To the centurion with a sick servant, He said: *I will come and heal him....*

4. Healing is *received* in many different ways– but each gives glory to Jesus.

There are many avenues through which healing comes. Here are ten:

1. Sovereign acts of God's power and compassion.
2. Angelic ministry.
3. Intercession.
4. Faith in the biblical promises of healing.
5. Authoritative commands and declarations.
6. Laying on of hands.

7. Anointing with oil.
8. The gifts of the Spirit.
9. When God gives freedom from oppression of the enemy.
10. Repentance from sin or an inner (emotional) healing.

Question: why does God heal people in different ways?

We don't know but He seems to choose many different ways to heal in order to bring glory to Himself through different means. Finally... Principle #5:

5. Faith for healing can grow as we *reject* the enemy's decree

The Bible says God has a wonderful purpose for our lives: *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” says the LORD, “thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11)*

The enemy of our souls also has a plan for our lives – Jesus said the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but He said, *I have come that they might have life – and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)*