



Part 48: Jesus' Healing Ministry
Matthew 8:14-17

I. Global Reports of Jesus' Healing Ministry

There are many credible reports of miraculous healings from the Church ... these raise questions for Western Christians Is Jesus still healing people ... what should we expect ... how should we approach the subject of healing when it has been so controversial and seemingly hurtful to many?

II. Big Picture: Restoring God's Joyful Wholeness

Matthew's literary framework.

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people." Matthew 4:23; 9:35

Luke's framework.

"Today salvation has come to this house because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:9-10

Jesus' healing miracles are not random proofs that He was divine so much as signs of the Kingdom breaking in through Jesus. What Satan was seeking to destroy, God was rescuing and restoring through His Son Jesus.

The Greek verb “to save” (*sozo*) means to deliver, rescue, heal, or make whole. Our Salvation is God restoring the whole person and eventually His entire creation back into the joyful wholeness of His beautiful Kingdom.

“To preach the Good News in the power of the Spirit is, at the same time, to heal. It is to bring lost and foundering souls into wholeness in Christ. It is to see the wrecked and splintered pieces of their foundered ship not only repaired, but made for the first time truly seaworthy, with Another at the helm.” – Leanne Payne, *The Healing Presence*

III. Four Kinds of Healings

We see Jesus ministering essentially four kinds of healing:

- A. Spiritual healing: the deepest & most important healing when our relationship with God is restored by the regeneration of our hearts/spirits (John 3:3-8; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 2:13-15; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Pet. 1:3-9).
- B. Physical healing: healing bodily sickness or injury.
- C. Emotional (inner) healing: healing those disordered emotions caused by past hurts so that we are more able to receive & give God’s love.
- D. Deliverance from demonic oppression, which can cause any of the other kinds of sickness.

“In traditional terms, Jesus saves us from personal sin and from the effects of original sin, which includes ignorance, weakness of will, disoriented emotions, physical illness, and death.

Some of this freedom will unfold only in the deepened life that takes place after our physical death. But even now the process has begun: ‘The kingdom of God is at hand.’ Jesus is freeing us from sin, from ignorance (‘the Spirit will lead you into all truth’), from weakness of purpose, from disoriented emotions, and from physical sickness – from all the sickness, therefore, that destroys or lessens our humanity – in order to give us new life, a new relationship of love and union with his Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. The saving power of Jesus frees us from all those elements of evil that prevent us from entering our new life with God.

Jesus, therefore, came to do two things:

- 1) *To give us a new life, a loving relationship of union with his Father and with himself, through the Holy Spirit.*
- 2) *To heal and free (save) us from all those sick elements in our lives that need to be transformed so that the new life may freely enter in.” – Francis MacNutt, *Healing**

IV. Humble Risk

Jesus delegated his authority and power to his followers as well (Matt. 10:1f; 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-11; 10:1-9; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; James 5:13-20).

“To do for yourself the best that you have it in you to do – to grit your teeth and clench your fists in order to survive the world at its harshest and worst – is, by that very act, to be unable to let something be done for you and in you that is more wonderful still. The trouble with steeling yourself against the harshness of reality is that the same steel that secures your life against being destroyed [further wounded] secures your life also against being opened up and transformed.” Frederick Beuechner, *The Sacred Journey*

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise His Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and don't forget His benefits.

He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases; He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion.

He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.”

Psalm 103:1-5

Recommended Resources:

1. “Introduction to the Healing Ministry of Jesus” by Doug Brown (<https://greenwoodcc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Introduction-to-Jesus-Healing-Ministry.pdf>)
2. *Healing* by Francis MacNutt
3. *Stone By Stone* by Jasona Brown
4. *Let Jesus Heal Your Inner Wounds* by Brad Long & Cindy Strickler

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your experience, if any, with teaching or experience on the topic of healing?
2. What have been your thoughts, if any, about the relevance of Jesus' healing ministry?
3. Have you ever prayed for the healing of anyone? If so, what happened?
4. Was there anything in this sermon that was helpful? Confusing?
5. How do you feel about the invitation to risk praying for all kinds of healings?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Would you like to see Greenwood grow into the ministry of healing if it was done with humility and wisdom? Will you pray for the Spirit to release gifts of healings and even miracles according to Paul's instructions?
- 7.