

He Healed Them

Matthew 14:34-36; 15:29-31

Jesus healed hundreds, probably thousands, of people in the time of his walk on earth.

Passage Observations:

1. The Healing Ministry of Jesus Brings Knowledge of God

It Reveals the Character of God: The power and goodness of Christ – if only they touch the hem of his garment

- a. Chapter 14, verse 36 – As many as touched the fringe of his garment were made well
- b. Chapter 15, verse 30 – put “them” at his feet and he healed them!

Upon sharing with others about Jesus I am frequently asked about those who suffer.

Further observations concerning this point:

- a. The body is not bad
 - Not dualists – spirit is good, material is bad
 - Not Gnostic – spirit is of God, material is not
- b. Time moves toward a new heaven, a new earth, new physical bodies; caring compassionately for the physically suffering is consistent with who God is and where God is going
- c. The resurrection of Christ was the future of God breaking into (coming forward) the present.
- d. Healing does not just validate the message of the Kingdom, it is the Kingdom. Where God rules, there is no sickness. There will be no sickness on the earth and in the new heaven.

“Healing was neither a gimmick to gather crowds nor a confirmation that the kingdom was present. Healing is the presence of the kingdom!” Sam Storms

- This does not guarantee healing or health in this life. We don’t get the full benefit until the end. There is more to come.
- But we are to seek the kingdom (Matt 6:33)
- We are to pray, thy kingdom come
- So we are to work toward, pray toward, and believe toward the alleviating of physical human suffering

2. The Healing Ministry of Jesus teaches us to bring people to Christ – this is what happened in both occasions

3. The Healing Ministry of Jesus Brings Glory to God

God gets the glory – God is glorified through the demonstration of his authority over sickness

But how? I must now concede that much of what is presented as healing today does not glorify God. That is the sad truth. That doesn’t mean that it is void of power. We know that God uses all types of vessels and situations.

So, how does this model work today?

Luke 4:14-21 ESV

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Matthew 12:22-28 ESV

22 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.

23 And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."

25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.

26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 9:2 ESV

2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Luke 10:8-9 ESV

8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

1 Corinthians 12:3 ESV

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Acts 10:38 ESV

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Some Action Points:

The first two really go together

1. Don't create obstructions that make it difficult to bring everything to Jesus

A handout is available at the back, an article in two parts by Sam Storms: Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Also, the link to this article will be posted on the website where you listen on line to this message.

2. Don't build your theology in reaction to abuses

“If you are walking backward away from something you think is a mistake, you may be right in supposing it is a mistake, but for you to be walking backward is never right. Sooner or later people who walk backward in the physical sense stumble over some obstacle behind them which they never saw, because their minds and their eyes were fixed on what they were trying to get away from, and then they fall. We are meant to walk forward, not backward. Reaction is always a matter of walking backward, and thus it brings its own nemesis.” (J. I. Packer)

3. Don't take upon yourself what only Jesus can do
4. Keep it simple: Bring others to Jesus
5. Pray for the sick and receive prayer when sick
6. Cultivate compassion through service
7. Build genuine faith from the Word of God
8. See health care as more than a political issue and seek to be a part of providing quality and available care for everyone
9. Withhold good from no one as far as you are able
10. Practice healing as a ministry of the body of Christ and not something reserved for superstars
11. Live dependent upon God when it comes to your body
12. Trust in the one who can heal your body for your complete salvation

Conclusion: