

The God Who Heals You (Exod. 15:26)

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."

Prayer:

Tonight we're going to pray and believe God for healing. Let's believe God that He will manifest His power among us in a great way. Let's pray.

- Father, we pray as David prayed tonight – open our eyes that we may behold wonderful things out of your Word.
- We ask that you would increase our faith for healing as we look into Your Word.

- We lay aside every preconceived notion of truth so that we may receive your truth. In Jesus' Name.

This passage in Matthew's Gospel we've just read talks about several busy days in the life of Jesus. It's a fascinating passage for a number of reasons but what I want you to see in it first of all is that there were

Several different groups of people who encountered Jesus:

1. Some people came looking for Him (leper, the centurion)
2. Some people had Jesus brought to them (Peter's mother-in-law)
3. Some people were brought to Jesus (many people)
4. Some weren't even present when someone asked Jesus to help them (the centurion's son)

You may find yourself in one of these categories tonight

- Maybe you've come seeking a touch from Jesus; or,

- Maybe someone has brought you here, telling you that there is hope in Jesus Christ for your condition. If so, I want you to notice some important things about a busy couple of days in the life of Jesus:

In each of these situations, there were three key 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

Now each one of those statements could be a sermon in and of itself. At the moment, however, we just want to emphasize those simple facts, that

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

At Harvest Time Church, we believe that what Jesus did then, He is still able to do today in the Year 2011. Why do we believe this?

1. The Bible says Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and forever (Hebr. 13:8). He neither changes nor can He be changed.
2. The Bible says that He continues to heal through the ministry of His church.
3. We have seen healings and miracles in the life of our own church in response to prayer: healings from cancers, eating disorders, vision restored, and many other things that people in this room could testify to. (Ask how many have ever received or witnessed a healing.)
4. God stills heals because He still loves us just as He did 2000 years ago

This is why we believe that whether you came here for help, or somebody brought you, or even if you came here tonight to ask Jesus to touch somebody else, He is willing and able to help even in the most difficult cases. This is why we have faith for healing tonight.

And before we pray together tonight, we want to explore the Word of God briefly and as we do this I believe God is going to strengthen our faith for healing. The Bible says faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God.

- What is the truth about healing and should I expect God to touch my physical body?
- I know that God cares about my soul and giving me the gift of eternal life, but does He care about my physical body, too?
- We believe He does, and we're going to see it in the pages of God's Word tonight.

I'm going to give you 5 simple principles to build your faith for healing, and then after we've shared the Word we're going to pray for people.

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

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

- Sometimes it's derived from anecdotes, from stories we've heard
- Sometimes it's derived from religious tradition – what I was taught by my church, my denomination, or the person who led me to the Lord

- Sometimes it's derived from unbelief or from a lack of experience
 - Well, I *know* God doesn't heal because, after all, He's never healed me.

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

- “...*I am the LORD who heals you...*” (Ex. 15:26)
 - He attached healing to his very name: YHWH-Rapha
 - God feels so strongly about healing, that He added it to His Name.
 - Now, think about this for a minute. We would never know that this was one of the Names of God unless... what? Unless He ***told*** us it was one of His Names! This means He wants you to know that this is His Name.
- “...*who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases...*” (Ps. 103:3)
 - In this Psalm, David tells us that God desires to heal every manner of sickness and disease

- *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)*
 - This is Peter's description of Jesus' ministry. And this verse shows us very powerfully that it's God's will to heal, because for Jesus to have God with Him, for Jesus to have the fullness of the Spirit meant that God wanted Him to do more than just preach. Jesus went around doing good and healing everyone *because God was with Him!*
- *Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today and forever. (Heb. 13:8)*
 - We've already seen this passage. If you look at Jesus' desire to heal and Jesus' power to heal in the Gospels, this verse ought to encourage us tonight that He hasn't changed in any way.

Here's a second healing principle to build your faith for healing:

2. Healing *reflects* God's character: His love and compassion

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)*

- *...He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9)*
 - Sometimes people say, well if I were back in Gospel times, I know Jesus would have healed me, but I don't know if God will heal me now. But Jesus said that to see what He did in those times was to see the reflection of the Father's heart.

- 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)*

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

A third healing principle to take note of:

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 it is through His grace and kindness that we can have eternal life and healing for 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....*

Healing is revealed in the Word, healing reflects God's character, and healing is released to us through Jesus Christ. And fourth,

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

There are many avenues through which healing comes:

1. Sovereign acts of God’s power and compassion

Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saves them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. (Ps. 107:19-20)

2. Angelic ministry – the Bible tells us how angels have come and strengthened people. We can’t command them but we can certainly ask God for their ministry. The Word says they are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who shall be the heirs of salvation.

3. Intercession – many cases of people being healed through receiving a one or more concentrated sessions of intercessory prayer. Elijah and Peter raised people from death in this way.

4. Faith in the biblical promises of healing – learn scriptures like the ones we’re talking about tonight. Meditate on them. Let them renew your mind. As you do your faith will rise.

5. Authoritative commands and declarations

Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I have none; but such as I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” (Acts 3:6)

- You need to know that God has invested the Name of Jesus with all authority in Heaven and Earth. It may sound strange to you but we are taught in the Scripture not only to have faith in Jesus, but also in the NAME of Jesus itself, when it stands for Him.
- This may seem odd to people in our culture, but ancient peoples understood that a man’s name stood for his person.
- In fact, later in Acts 3, Peter went on to say, *“And His name through faith in His name has made this man strong...”* (Acts 3:16)

6. Laying on of hands

...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.... (Mark 16:18b)

- This describes the phenomenon of an outflow of power from you into another person.
- In Acts 10 we read that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power. In the Gospels we read how Jesus felt power flow out of Him when a woman with a hemorrhage touched him. And you may feel tangible power flowing into you tonight.

7. Anointing with oil

This isn't magic but it's symbolic of the Holy Spirit. *Is anyone sick among you? 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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (Jas. 5:14-15)*

8. The gifts of the Spirit

...to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the workings of miracles... (1 Cor. 12: 9b10a)

And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings... (1 Cor. 12:28a)

9. When God gives freedom from oppression of the enemy

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, “Dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and enter no more into him.” (Mark 9:25)

10. Repentance from sin or inner healing which brings healing to the physical man as the inner man is healed

When I kept silence, my bones grew old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I

will confess my transgressions to the LORD; and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Ps. 32:35)

Medical doctors know that some diseases are produced or at least worsened by our emotional state. Negative emotions such as bitterness and unforgiveness contribute to this.

Question: why does God heal people in different ways?

We don't know but it seems that God chooses 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 tells us how God says he 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) – if you don't know that this is what God wishes for you, you need to settle that tonight.

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)*

You need to settle that, too – that it's the enemy who wishes to do you in.

Let's stand a stand tonight against hopelessness, and against any words of discouragement that someone might have given to you about your health.

- Now here we need to be careful. We don't mean to suggest that a person's illness is imaginary or shouldn't be taken seriously. Christian Science would tell you your illness is an illusion.
- Sickness is real – but so is the power of the Blood of Jesus, so is the power of the Name of Jesus. And Jesus' Name is more powerful than your sickness.

Be convinced tonight, Church, from the Word of God that God is for you and not against you.

Be convinced that He has a good plan for your life.

Be convinced that healing is available to you through the kindness of Jesus Christ.

And be convinced that He is Jehovah-Rapha, the God who heals you.

Prayer together after an interval:

- Father God, I come to you in the Name of Jesus.
- I thank You that you call yourself Jehovah Rapha.
- I choose to believe that you are my healer. I choose to believe that you are good. I choose to believe that your plan is good.
- I refuse the devil's decree and the devil's report about me.
- I refuse to say any longer that something runs in my family. Because I am in your family.

- Because of this, I say that blessing runs in my family. Prosperity runs in my family. Freedom runs in my family. Peace runs in my family. Soundness of mind runs in my family. Healing runs in my family.

In Jesus' name – amen!

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