

HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS: PART 2

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The last time we were looking at the Healing Ministry of Jesus.

Jesus frequently healed great multitudes ... possibly hundreds at a time? Interestingly ... there is no record of His ever turning anyone away! All got healed!

That should be encouraging? Jesus is still the same ... yesterday ... today and forever.

Rather than merely looking at Jesus' "group/mass healings" ... we've begun to look at His individual healings ... looking at the background circumstances ... eavesdropping on the dialogue ... what was said ... what instructions were given ... what lessons we can learn.

Healing was not incidental in Jesus ministry. It wasn't peripheral
About 20% of Gospel accounts.

We can all wonder about God's attitude to healing ... is He for it/agin it ... frequent/rare ... difficult/easy. Well we don't really have to speculate ... we've got the Gospel accounts. Let's recap ... then move on.

Matthew 9:35 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, *teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease* among the people.

Jesus had a 3 part ministry. 1. Teaching. 2. Preaching the Gospel of The Kingdom and 3. Healing every sickness and every disease. Today? He still has the same 3 part ministry.

He healed all ... everyone.

Jesus was sufficiently concerned about people's needs to then multiply His healing ministry. He actually multiplies His own ministry.

Matthew 9:36 - 10:1 (NKJV)

36 But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them**, *(it weighs on Him)* because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, **"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.**

38 Therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest."**

Chapter 10

1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.**

Twelve disciples now sent out to heal all sickness. Healing was a vital ... central ... main part of Jesus's ministry.

Later ... Jesus sent out a further 70 individuals ... with instructions to heal the sick (Luke 10). Now up to 83 people who are charged to heal the sick and every disease.

So ... healing definitely a major element of Jesus' ministry. And wasn't primarily about promoting His ministry (He often said: "tell no one"). Jesus was doing these things because He was "moved with compassion".

And worth remembering ... when we see Jesus in action ... it's as if we're seeing The Father too.

John 5:17-21 (NKJV)

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, *because He not only broke the Sabbath, (their rules) but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*"

20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 5:30 (NKJV)

30 *I can of Myself do nothing.* As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because *I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

So ... we shouldn't ever think: "People might have been healed by Jesus back then ... but now I've got to go to The Father ... who knows what He's like?" We should. Jesus told Philip ... "if you've seen Me ... you've seen The Father". Jesus is the express image of The Father.

So let's go back to the individual healings in the Gospel accounts. Last time we looked at 9 examples (there are approximately 20 altogether in the gospel accounts) :

- man with leprosy (according to the rabbis ... a sign that only The Messiah could do)
- 10 lepers
- woman with the spirit of infirmity whom satan had bound for 18 yrs
- woman with the issue of blood ... that Jesus didn't know about
- man let down through the roof ... Jesus saw the faith
- man born blind (according to the rabbis ... a sign that only The Messiah could do)
- centurion's servant ... Jesus had not come across that Great Faith anywhere
- two blind men in the house
- two blind men on the way to Jericho

Let's look at one again ... the leper ... and then move on.

Luke 5:12-15 (NKJV)

12 And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, **a man who was full of leprosy** saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, **"Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."** *(The leper doubted)*

13 Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, **"I am willing; be cleansed."** Immediately the leprosy left him.

14 And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded."

15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and **great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.**

Probably one of the biggest hindrances today? "I know God can heal ... but I don't know if He's willing ... specifically ... willing to heal me". That's a common problem today.

People wonder: "Am I good enough? Have I prayed enough? Studied enough? Do I sin too often? Maybe God's put this sickness on me to teach me a lesson? After all ... God is Sovereign ... He must have allowed this sickness?"

On it goes! Thousands of reasons ... human reasons ... why we may not be healed. But none of these reasons appear in scripture.

Nowhere does Jesus say: "You're not good enough to heal". "You've not prayed/studied enough/given enough". No scriptures saying ... "My Father put this on you to teach you a great lesson". None of these come from the Bible.

We should get our doctrine from the Bible. Not from the Bible plus carnal traditions (or even Church traditions).

We've got the scriptures. We've got the detailed descriptions of what Jesus did do. His example. It's not WWJD? But ... WDJD ... What did Jesus do?

Jesus is no respecter of persons. This leper had no special advantage. He asked a question many people have: "Are You willing?" Jesus answered it for all people ... for all time. "I am willing".

Moving on.

John 4:46-54 (NKJV)

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. (*Capernaum --> Cana about 20-25 miles. A day's journey*)

47 **When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.**

48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"

50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.

54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

If the father had taken no action his boy would have died. Then at the funeral they would have said, "the Lord gives and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the Name of The Lord". "God wanted another little flower in His Heavenly garden". That would have been wrong. God wouldn't have wanted this boy to have died.

Notice: No "inquisition" by Jesus ... "Do you tithe ... go to the synagogue regularly ... pray every day?" Where are the scriptures that tell us of how we should perform? You don't find it in scripture.

The man does have a choice. Does he believe Jesus' words? Does he remain in faith on the long journey back home? Can he only believe if there's laying on of hands ... or anointing with oil? He remained in faith.

Remember the Centurion's GREAT FAITH ... "only say The Word!"

There was no need either for Jesus to be physically present. Can we believe on The Word without any physical evidence?

Matthew 15:21-28 (NKJV)

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." (she acknowledged that He was The Messiah)

23 But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Jesus "withdrew" to the coast to get away and have a quiet time. He seems reluctant to heal. This is the only time that we see this. Yet ... even here ... THE GIRL WAS HEALED!

So ... not a single solitary occasion in the Gospels where Jesus didn't heal. This was the "nearest".

And ... there was a reason for Jesus' reluctance ... and ... it doesn't apply to us in the slightest!

The woman was a Gentile. She had no covenant with God. No promises to call upon.

And Jesus was given a mission at this time ... only to the House of Israel.

Ephesians 2:11-12 (NKJV)

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

12 *that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

Back to Matthew chapter 15.

The woman wouldn't take "no" for an answer. She persisted ... had ACTIVE FAITH. "Maybe I don't have a legal right ... but ... how about a crumb of mercy?"

It's interesting there are only 2 occasions where Jesus mentioned "Great Faith" ... both Gentiles!!

So. Even though Jesus was reluctant ... she got her healing. So ... we end up with 100% of the people healed under Jesus' ministry.

And don't forget: this situation doesn't apply to us anyway. WE HAVE A COVENANT.

Mark 8:22-26 (NKJV)

22 Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.

23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.

24 And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."

25 Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And **he was restored and saw everyone clearly.**

26 Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town." (*Let's not publish this ... let's keep quiet about this*)

Jesus took the man by the hand. He led him out of town. Why? There was an atmosphere of skeptics and doubters? Unbelievers and hard-hearted? A bad atmosphere for miraculous healing. (*Jesus didn't think much about Bethsaida ... see the following verses*)

Matthew 11:20-21 (NKJV)

20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, **they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** (*they were condemned by Jesus*)

Jesus began to upbraid (reproach) the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done ... because they did not repent. "Woe to you Bethsaida!" Tyre and Sidon could have repented.

Being around negative doubters ... can affect our faith. They can "drain us" spiritually. That's one lesson here. If you're around negative people ... you will struggle.

So Jesus gets the man away.

Then Jesus spits in his eyes!?!

Do you see? Partially. So Jesus laid on His hands again. It wasn't that God hadn't answered ... or Jesus' first words were ineffective. Jesus was simply encouraging the man ... providing support for his faith (he could take the man out of Bethsaida ... but not so easy to take Bethsaida out of the man!)

There is something similar in another healing.

Mark 5:21-24 (NKJV)

21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea.

22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet

23 and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." (*Jairus made a statement of faith... "she will live"*)

24 So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

Then there was an interlude: the lady with the issue of blood.

Unfortunate timing ... the little girl had died.

Mark 5:35-36 (NKJV)

35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." (*ASV: "Fear not. Only believe"*)

Fear and faith are opposites. Jairus had started in faith ... but now there is an opportunity for him to start fearing. Fear is believing (that bad things will happen) ... listening to satan. Faith is believing God.

Sometimes it is best TO BE SILENT.

Mark 5:37-43 (NKJV)

37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.

39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."

40 And they ridiculed Him. But **when He had put them all outside,** *(put out the unbelievers ... the skeptics and doubters ... the negative people. They are a hindrance to faith ... like the man from Bethsaida. Even Jesus can be affected by an atmosphere of doubt!)* He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

43 But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

Mark 6:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him.

2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!"

Mark 6:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Now **He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.**

6 And **He marveled because of their unbelief.** (*Their unbelief HINDERED HIM*)

Watch your company!

John 5:1-6 (NKJV)

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralysed, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

5 Now **a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.**

6 **When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"**

Do you want to be healed? This seems a strange question. Some people don't want to be made well ... they would miss the care and concern ... miss being the centre of attention.

Maybe he was so despondent after 38 years ... he had no desire or expectation left? In which case Jesus had to get the guy to start thinking afresh?

After all of these years he may “see himself” as an invalid. He can’t imagine any other existence? There needs to be hope ... always ... faith is the substance of things hoped for. We have to start with hope ... imagine that something can happen.

John 5:7-9 (NKJV)

7 The sick man answered Him, “**Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.**”

8 Jesus said to him, “**Rise, take up your bed and walk.**”

9 And **immediately the man was made well**, took up his bed, and walked. *(The man hadn't walked in over 38 years! It took some faith to even attempt)*

And that day was the Sabbath.

John 5:10-16 (NKJV)

10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”

11 He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’ ”

12 Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?”

13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “**See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.**”

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

Verse 14 suggests that some former sin had brought about his decades of illness? (He's inevitably going to sin like we all do ... but ... there was something specific sin in his history ... "Don't do that again". He would have known).

Physically abusing our bodies is a form of physical sin. Breaking laws of health and well being. There are occasional comments in the news of someone taking "recreational" drugs ... just once ... paralysed ... or even dead.

Mark 3:1-6 (NKJV)

1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

2 So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."

4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

It is lawful to do good on The Sabbath. The Pharisees knew that Jesus could heal ... there was plenty of evidence. They probably expected Him to heal.

It was okay in their minds to be filled with rage (Luke 6:11) ... and to plot the murder of a good man ... but not okay to heal and do good?? Warped minds.

Mark 9:14-18 (NKJV)

14 **And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.**

15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.

16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?"

17 Then **one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.**

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

The disciples could not cast out the demon (some sickness is demon-caused).

If this occurred today: "Not God's will to heal your son". "God's put this on your family to teach you an important valuable lesson."

"This is a blessing in disguise". "Well ... you just never know with God". LOTS OF HUMAN REASONING. ALL WRONG!

God's will isn't determined purely by what happens. (We read recently about Israel's refusal to go into the Promised Land ... how almost all adults died. It wasn't God's will).

We determine God's will by what the scriptures tell us or show us. (In a few verses ... this boy is healed ... Jesus is consistent with healing. Always in scripture ... His will).

Mark 9:19 (NKJV)

19 He answered him and said, **"O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."**

Mark 9:20-27 (NKJV)

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

And he said, "From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him, "***If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.***"

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Jesus is frustrated by their lack of faith. They should have done better. What does Jesus make of our practice and experiences today?

Mark 9:28-29 (NKJV)

28 And when He had come into the house, ***His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"***

29 So He said to them, "***This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.***"

Cp the parallel verses"

Matthew 17:19-21 (NKJV)

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

20 So Jesus said to them, "*Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

21 *However, this kind (of unbelief) does not go out except by prayer and fasting.*"

They had faith ... initially. They had healed quite a number of times. But ... this time ... the resistance was too strong? Not immediate? Doubts crept in ... tug-of-war ... FAITH VS DOUBT.

Jesus had no doubts: 100% Faith.

So. Sometimes it may not be our faith that needs increasing? Maybe we need to focus too on getting the doubt out!!

Hopefully the disciples learned a lesson here. Stay strong spiritually ... persist ... stick with it. We've got the authority.

Again... irrespective of the human failures and flaws ... it was God's will to heal!

Many encouraging scriptures and examples of Jesus's healing ministry. It is good to read ... imagine ... see ourselves there.

IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL!

Remember!!

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

It's good to take time to look at these situations and our faith will be nourished by hearing and hearing ... THE WORD OF GOD!