

POWER FOR HEALING

CMBC February 17, 2013

Matthew 8:1 – 17

1. THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS

- a. Prominent in Jesus' ministry
 - i. Gospel mentions 30 separate times of healing
 - ii. Often more than one person healed
 - iii. Sometimes it says many came to him for healing

- b. Matthew's examples in chapter 8 of this healing
 - i. Three examples in our Scripture: leper, Centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law

- c. The healing ministry of His church
 - i. Jesus' disciples and the church in Acts carried out healing
 - ii. 18 accounts in the book of Acts, some referring to many were healed.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE MIRACULOUS

All of this raises some questions, but 2 things are clear:

- a. God has the power to heal
 - i. Every kind of illness
 - ii. There were Old Testament accounts of healing and even raising people from the dead.

- b. God intends for the church to be the agent of healing
 - i. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of healing
 - ii. People are encouraged to call the elders for anointing and prayer for healing – James 5:14 - 16
 - iii. Were healings only for the apostolic age?

3. MORE THAN DELIVERANCE FROM ILLNESS

- a. The story of Jesus healing in this chapter, Matthew 8, is a declaration that all were welcome
 - i. The man with leprosy
 - ii. The centurion
 - iii. Peter's mother-in-law

Look at these examples:

b. Healing the man with leprosy

- i. The law of Moses said you don't touch or you will be unclean
 1. Jesus touched this person
 2. Instead of Jesus becoming unclean, the leper became clean

ii. Jesus sends him to the priest

Matthew 8:4 ...”go show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

iii. Why did Jesus tell him “See that you don't tell anyone.”

The answer is in **Mark 1:[43]** Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: [44] “See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” [45] Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

People would likely follow Jesus for his healing power and miss the message of the Gospel

c. Healing the centurion's servant

- i. Here is another example of Jesus healing someone who wasn't seen to be acceptable to the Jewish spiritual elite.
- ii. This was a Roman soldier, one whose life was to kill
- iii. God had done a work in his heart
- iv. Luke 7[7:1] When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. [2] There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. [3] The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. [4] When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, [5] because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” [6] So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. [7] That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. [8] For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that

one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

[9] When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." [10] Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

- d. Healing Peter's mother-in-law
 - i. This was a woman
 - ii. Jesus does not discriminate
- e. Why was Jesus healing?
 - i. There is no account or evidence of Jesus having healed people before he began his ministry at this time.
 - ii. The healings of Jesus are there to authenticate who he was and to declare the power of God
 - iii. When John the Baptist doubted, Jesus told his disciples to tell John what they had seen – healing and preaching the Gospel to the poor.
 - iv. The same is happening today
- f. Did Jesus heal everyone?
 - i. All he prayed for were healed
 - ii. But at times Jesus walked away
Matthew 8:18 **When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.**

4. TESTING WHAT IS REAL

Our thinking on healing has been colored for several reasons.

- a. The abuse of healing
 - i. Fakes
 - 1. Some of the mass healers, the hysteria healers, it seems to me are not genuine
 - 2. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 **The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, [10] and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**
 - 3. Just because Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform some of Moses miracles, didn't mean that Moses stopped.

- ii. Those who say all illness is due to sin or that a lack of healing is a lack of faith
 1. It is true that illness is the result of the fall of man
 2. Some illness is the direct result of sin – bitterness, unforgiveness
 3. But Jesus said that this wasn't always the case
 ILL. **John 9** the blind man Jesus said the purpose of the blindness was to bring glory to God
 4. It is hard to find anywhere where Jesus attributed illness to sin
 But that is the case in the instruction regarding communion

- iii. Those who teach that healing is in the atonement
 1. After Matthew has told these stories of healing in Matthew 8 he says:
Matthew 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." Isaiah 53
 2. The cross **will** result in all sickness and tears wiped away. God will take away all illness, but that is for eternity.
Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
 3. You won't like me saying this, but healing isn't so much to help you feel better, or to take away the pain. Healing is to bring glory to God and to strengthen our faith.
 4. A poor theology of suffering
 - a. God is also glorified through our faith in Him while we suffer.
 - b. There are many scriptures that talk about suffering

- b. The power of God to heal
 - i. Another reason for our thinking on healing being colored is because of our lack of power from God and our faith in his ability to heal.
 - When God came to earth he touched people in their areas of need
 - His power was evident as they were healed.
 - He intends that his Spirit within us should give us the same power.
 - He intends that in your place of suffering you should ask for healing and experience his power.