

## Jesus The Healer

2 Kings 5:1-14

Acts 3:1-16

Mark 2:1-12

The Bible tells us that a big part of Jesus' ministry was given over to healing. Jesus never turns any one away who comes to him for healing as the four Gospels tell us.

We learn that he healed paralytics, the lame, the lepers, blind, those who had fevers. He cast out demons and ministered to those with chronic conditions. He even raised some back from the dead like his friend Lazarus .

In the book of Acts we learn some very Important truths, that we all need to grasp

number 1 Jesus is still the Healer today,

number 2 Healing comes from Jesus alone

number 3 The purpose of divine healing is always to glorify him.

Jesus tells his disciples "I tell you the truth anyone who has faith in me, will do what I am doing. You will do greater things than these, because I am going to my Father.

In the Gospel reading this morning we hear that Jesus was in a house in Capernaum teaching a large crowd, when four men arrived, carrying their friend for Jesus to heal. When they realised they couldn't get through the crowds, they went upon the roof, made a hole and lowered their friend down to Jesus on a stretcher.

Jesus saw the faith these men had in him, so he told the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

The teachers of the law known as the Pharisees, who were standing close by, thought he was blaspheming, and muttered between themselves as to who he was, saying, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus asks them, "Which is easier to say, your sins are forgiven, or take up your mat and walk? I am the Son of Man and I have authority here on earth to forgive sins." He then tells the man, "Take up your mat and walk and go home."

The crowds praised God, never having seen anything like this before, but the Pharisees didn't like this. Who was this man to forgive sins? Only God could do this.

Jesus had forgiven this man his sins, and then he tells him to take up his mat and walk, but the power had come from God.

Jesus told the Pharisees, "I am the son of God," but they still failed to recognise or listen to what Jesus said.

Jesus ministry was to teach people how to change their ways, to help them see how they sin, how that sin can corrupt their lives in body, mind and spirit.

The first step of the healing process was to turn to Jesus and ask for forgiveness of their sins. Jesus would forgive them, heal them and tell them to sin no more. This is just like us on a Sunday morning when we come into Gods presence and repent of our sins and ask to be forgiven.

Jesus cannot stop our physical deaths. It is good to know that for a believer death is no longer our enemy, but it still remains a difficult time for those who are dying and the loved ones who are watching over them.

But in Psalm 23 we read the words that tell us that even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we have nothing to fear for he is with us. He prepares to receive us by spreading a table before us, and leads us home where we will dwell in his house forever.

Jesus bought us this healing eternal life through his own death upon the cross as he took away the sins of the world, for he loves us so.

Jesus sometimes tells those he has healed to go away and tell no one who has healed them, I think maybe this is because Jesus doesn't want to be known just for his healing powers, he wants people to come to him, to listen and to learn

about how to lead a good life, how to be kind to one another, to look after the world he had created. They needed to have faith in him in order for the miracle of healing to happen.

Miracles in themselves are an extraordinary and welcome event that is not easily explained away, therefore is of a divine supernatural phenomenon. Yes, I got that out of the dictionary!

But miracles in themselves do not bring us to faith, we have to have faith for them to happen.

It is said that Mark dedicates more of his account to Jesus's miracles than any other of the gospel writers. For Mark these miracles were demonstrations of the power that Jesus has, His power over diseases, the forces of evil, even that of nature - remember how the winds and waves obeyed him.

To obtain healing for our lives, Jesus desires that we believe, even today we need to bring him our struggles, wounds or our sins. By doing this it can generate healing and hope. His healing may not be how we want it to be or look the way we expect it to, but through him it is still true and miraculous. All we need to do is believe and have faith in him.

Amen.

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