

2025-12-28

Jesus' Healing Ministry

Mark 6:53-56

I have been asked what type of books do I read. What type of books do you read? Over my lifetime I have spent countless hours reading a variety of literature. I have read almost all of Louis L'Amour and Zane Gray's westerns. I have read history books, biographies, autobiographies, philosophy books, some science fiction, and some fantasy. I have read poetry books, informational books, religious books and devotional books. I even read one romance novel which I did not complete and decided not to read anymore of them. Lately, about the last 15 years or so I have concentrated my reading to **Biblical commentaries**. I want to learn the knowledge other scholars have gained from specific texts in the Bible. I like to discuss with others what they believe the Bible teaches. That is part of the reason we have a question-and-answer time about the morning's sermon or Bible study during our Sunday evening Bible study. I want to hear how you are hearing and processing what is being said. Sometimes people have a question that is totally unrelated, and that is alright as long as God is glorified through our discussion.

When I read and study the scripture I generally have lots of questions bouncing around in my head about what I am reading. Who is speaking? Who is listening? What is the context? Why is this being said? What is the point being made? What is the historical significance? How does all of this relate to me? How am I supposed to understand this? I often ask, "So what?" Why does this matter? This is where the commentaries become helpful at times. Although, there are times while I am reading the commentaries that some verses are given very little attention and some are even skipped over. Sometimes it is those verses that I have my greatest concern or questions about. I have wished that I could sit down with those scholars and discuss with them their thoughts on these verses. Then I think how great it will be to talk with Jesus in heaven and hear Him expound to everyone "*in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself*" (Luke 24:27). We know that Eternal Life is knowing God through Jesus Christ (John 17:3). We want to know Him!

Our scripture this morning is only four verses. I almost skipped over these verses like some commentaries do, thinking that these are not that important. I caught myself asking why is this recorded in scripture? What do I need to know about these verses? How do these verses impact my life today? What are we to take away from these verses? What does God want us to learn and put into practice from these verses? **My hesitancy** about these verses is dealing with Jesus' ministry on healing. Part of my influence as a new Christian about 50 years ago was several healing

ministries on television and the constant prayer requests for healing from Christians. Do not get me wrong. I do believe that God heals people. I also believe there is a time and place for those divine healings. I think God does everything with a purpose in mind. I believe that I have had a divine healing. You may not think of it as being much. Mine happened around the time I trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I had a problem with warts as a youth. The worst one was a planter's wart on the bottom of my big toe. At times it was extremely painful. While in the USAF I was planning on having it surgically removed. Around the time I trusted Jesus I noticed that the planter's wart was gone. How, I do not know. I have never had a problem with warts since. I acknowledged that God healed me. I have no other explanation.

In our scripture today Jesus and the disciples had crossed over the Sea of Galilee once again. They returned to Gennesaret and anchored their boat. When they came ashore, everyone on the shore recognized Jesus. Jesus had become well known and popular in the Galilee area mainly because of His healing ministry. These people on the shore ran from village to village throughout that whole region telling people the whereabouts of Jesus. All these people began to bring everyone who was sick or crippled to wherever Jesus was. Sometimes Jesus was in the cities, sometimes He was in the villages, sometimes He was in the country. Wherever Jesus was *“they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well”* (6:56). One aspect of Jesus' ministry was healing people. He had compassion on them and healed them. There is no mention of the teaching ministry of Jesus in these verses, only His healing ministry.

In these verses we have a quick look at **Jesus' Healing Ministry**. We will take a quick look at this ministry. This is not an exhaustive study and explanation of Jesus' Healing Ministry. This sermon is **to help us begin to think about the healing ministry of Jesus**. I do not have all the answers nor all the pieces to a complicated topic like this. I do want us to **briefly** think about this topic. I do not recall hearing a sermon on Jesus' Healing Ministry. I have not found it discussed in commentaries. There are probably books written about it but I have not looked for them. I just want to use what the Bible teaches and what I have learned working with senior adults and families who have dealt with many health issues. First, our scripture for today. Jesus heals everyone who touched Him or his garment. Who are these people? They are probably Jews and Gentiles, people who seem more **concerned for the physical well being than their soul and their eternity**. People tended to think that all their physical sicknesses, their defilement was due to things they had eaten. Some people think the same way today. Their thinking also included the idea that if you were physically healed you were clean from your defilement giving them a better standing

with God. Was this true? No. We will see this next week in Mark 7:1-23. In these verses Jesus heals everyone. Why? He has compassion for them. They are lost. They do not know Him as Savior and Lord. They know Him as a Miracle worker. What is a miracle? **A miracle is an event that cannot be explained apart from the supernatural intervention of God.** Jesus is trying to help these people see and believe that He is God. How many of those who were healed truly understood who Jesus is? My guess is none of them, not until after the resurrection. Then some may have gotten it. My first observation is that these **miraculous healings** happen to unbelievers, to people who are not Christians to help them believe the truth of God. For example, I read this week about Dhano, a man who pastors 37 believers in Bangladesh. He wrote, "One young woman, Bidhan, suffering from illness, came to church and was prayed for. After her healing, she accepted Christ." I do believe **God can heal anyone anytime He wants to.** Primarily though, in scripture we find nonbelievers being healed so that they come to a saving faith in Jesus as Lord.

Two questions come to mind. Does God heal Christians? And, is there any other way that God heals people? Yes, to both. God heals Christians all the time. Paul was bitten by a very venomous snake and suffered no ill effects (Acts 28:3-6). Because he did not drop over dead, they thought he was a god. As I said, **God can heal anyone anytime He wants to for whatever purpose He wants to.** Remember, the primary purpose we find in scripture for healing among those who do not believe in Jesus is to get people to believe in Jesus as Lord. When God heals a Christian, and He does, He has a purpose and plan for us to glorify Him. It is also true that once we become a faithful follower of Jesus, we can expect persecution, problems and hardships in life. Remember what James wrote. "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces perseverance*" (1:2-3). Perseverance will work in you to make you mature, lacking nothing. If you do not understand this, if you lack wisdom, ask God who will help you understand (1:4-5). Think of Paul. Five times he was whipped with 39 lashes. Three times he was beaten with rods. Once he was stoned. He was in three shipwrecks (2 Corinthians 11:24-25). Just the guy you want to travel with. Then he spoke of his "*thorn in the flesh*" (12:7). Paul prayed for relief. **It is not wrong to pray for healing.** Paul did. Instead of a healing Paul was given wisdom, an understanding of his health issue. He was to learn, accept and live in God's grace. He needed to learn even in his pain and suffering that God loved him. God's love, the experience of His grace was more important than any healing. That "*thorn in the flesh*" kept Paul humble and dependent on God (12:9-10). Paul warned Timothy, "*All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution*" (2 Timothy 3:12). So, is suffering from persecution and from illness the same? That is a good question. Persecution can result in many physical problems and illnesses. Paul recovered from lots of things.

Is there any other way that God heals people? Sure! Though it is not a miraculous healing. Remember, **a miracle is an event that cannot be explained apart from the supernatural intervention of God.** God has made our bodies with the wonderful ability to heal itself. God has made this possible. This is one reason I do not believe in evolution. Our bodies are made up of billions of living cells. Those cells know their jobs. I do not have to teach them, direct them or supervise them. They know what they are supposed to do. There are so many things going on in our bodies right now that we are not aware of! How it all works is a miracle. When we have a cut, certain cells go right to work. White blood cells fight off infection. Platelet cells start the clotting process in the right place. How do they know what to do? God has created them that way. Skin is replaced. Bones are healed because God has created the cells to do the repair work. God has also given people knowledge on how to help the healing process take place. He uses doctors and medications to help get our bodies and our systems aligned right and back in order. No matter how detailed robots will become, none of them will ever be able to grow self-replacing parts. This only happens in **living** creatures. Beyond what doctors and medications can do, there is **prayer**. God does bring healing to us because that is how He made our bodies. The action of prayer shows God we are trusting in Him as He uses all things to work together for our good (Romans 8:28).

James wrote, *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? 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 will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven”* (5:13-15). Our biggest problem as senior adults is our age. Some things just do not work the way they used to because of a variety of reasons. Our genetics, choices, eating and working habits, the environment and many other things all have an impact on our aging process. Does God still heal seniors? Sure He does. **God can heal anyone anytime He wants to for whatever purpose He wants to.** Yet God does let us live with many ailments to change our focus from this world to heaven. Everyone should learn, *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Col 3:1-2)

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