

GOD'S HEART FOR HEALING AND THE HARVEST

Mark 9:35-38, Luke 14:16-24, Isaiah 9:1-7

- The Lord's heart for healing is amazing!

And having come down from the mountain, great crowds followed with Him. And behold, a leper having come, fell upon his knees and touched the ground with his forehead in an expression of profound reverence before Him, saying, "Master, in the event that You may be having a heartfelt desire, You are able to cleanse me." And having stretched out His hand He touched Him saying, "I am desiring it from all My heart. Be cleansed at once." And immediately his leprosy was cured by being cleansed away. **Matthew 8:1-3 Wuest NT**

- Healing is not simply a secondary issue for the Lord: He is desiring to heal with all His heart.
 - The central passage in my pursuit of God's healing touch:

¹⁵ But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear *Him* and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray. ¹⁷ One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing. **Luke 5:15-17 NASB**

... "And the power of the Lord was [present] with Him to heal them." **Luke 5:17 Amplified Bible**

- The word for healing means healing of the sick...cured. It was used in the Bible specifically referring to the sick or of something broken. It means to heal, remedy, repair or treat.
- Healing is Part of the Finished Work of Jesus Christ.

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5 NASB**

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. **1 Peter 2:21-24 NASB**

²¹ At that very time He cured many *people* of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many *who were* blind. ²² And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the* blind receive sight, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. **Luke 21-22 NASB**

- Old Testament Healing (Jehovah Rophe)
 - A revelation of the nature of God:

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw *it* into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. ²⁶ And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer.” **Exodus 15:22-26 NASB**

⁶ Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth. ⁷ I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel and will rebuild them as they were at first. **Jeremiah 33:6-7 NASB**

- Healing and health – related to blessings and obedience. (**Psalm 103:1-3**)
- Sickness and death related to judgment and penalty.
- Examples of healing in OT:
 - **2 Kings 4:8-17** – healing barrenness
 - **2 Kings 18:37** – the ultimate healing...raising the young man from the dead.
 - **2 Kings 4:38-41** – healing and the poison in the stew.
 - **2 Kings 4:42-44** – the miracles of the multiplies bread.
 - **2 Kings 5:1-14** – the healing of Naaman the leper.

- Healing broken hearts:
 - He is the healer of broken hearts.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. **Psalm 147:3 NASB**

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are *open* to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷ *The righteous cry*, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:15-18 NASB

- His eyes are ears are open to our cry, He is ‘close’ to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
- His Word to heal the broken hearted.

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. **Proverbs 16:24 NASB**

- Healings of every sort are a prevalent part of the Biblical record of the message and ministry of Jesus.

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. **Acts 10:38 NASB**

Acts 10:38: The words and teaching of Jesus empowered by God’s Spirit healed many who were oppressed by the enemy.

Matthew 8:14-17: Healing is apart of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:24)

Luke 5:17: Healing results from the powerful presence of God. It is all about Him...He is the healer.

Hebrews 13:8: He is who He was and He does what He did...He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- The Healing Ministry of Jesus (Matthew’s Gospel)

Matthew 4:23-24: Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and performed healing.

²³ Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

²⁴ The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. **Matthew 4:23-24 NASB**

- Every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. (v23)
- Specifically, He healed various diseases and pains including demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics. (v24)

Matthew 12:8-13: He healed the man with the withered hand.

⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” ⁹ Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man *was there* whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse Him. ¹¹ And He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³ Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand!” He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. **Matthew 12:8-13 NASB**

Matthew 12:15: Jesus healed them all.

Matthew 12:22: Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute so that the man spoke and could see.

Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. **Matthew 12:22 NASB**

Matthew 14:13-14: Jesus sees a large crowd and has compassion for them and heals every sick person in the crowd.

Matthew 15:22-28: Jesus heals a demon-possessed Canaanite girl.

Matthew 15:30: Jesus heals the lame, crippled, blind, and mute in addition to many others.

And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them *those who were* lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. **Matthew 15:30 NASB**

- Five different ways Jesus healed blindness:
 - He spit on a person's eyes. (**Mark 8:22-26**)
 - He ministered deliverance to a demon possessed man and he was healed. (**Matthew 12:22-29**)
 - He was moved with compassion and touched the eyes of two blind men and they regained their sight. (**Matthew 20:29-34**)
 - He made mud of spit and clay and healed blind eyes. (**John 9:1-7**)
 - He healed a blind man with a 'word'...Jesus said, "receive your sight" ...and he was healed. (**Luke 18:35-43**)

CATEGORIES OF FAITH FOR HEALING

SEEKING FAITH – the person who is sick manifests a faith that seeks out God's healing touch...the woman with the issue of blood. **Matthew 9:20-22**

INTERCESSORY FAITH - friends of the sick person 'carry the sick person' to the Lord for healing. **Luke 5:18-26**

MINISTRY FAITH – the person(s) ministering to the sick has 'faith for Jesus to heal.' **Acts 3:1-11**

CORPORATE FAITH – calling for the elders and the church body to pray with faith for healing.

JESUS HEALED THEM ALL

There are 17 times in the Gospels where Jesus healed all of the sick that were present:

Matthew 4:23-24

Matthew 21:14

Matthew 8:16-17

Mark 1:32-34

Matthew 9:35

Mark 1:39

Matthew 12:15

Luke 4:40

Matthew 14:14

Luke 6:17-29

Matthew 14:30-31

Luke 7:21

Matthew 14:34-35

Luke 9:11

Matthew 19:2

Luke 17:12-17

There are 47 other times where Jesus healed one or two people at a time:

Matthew 8:1-4

Matthew 9:1-8

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 9:20-33

Matthew 8:14-15

Matthew 12:10-13

Matthew 8:28-24

Matthew 12:40-45

Matthew 2:1-12
Matthew 3:1-5
Matthew 5:1-20
Matthew 5:25-43
Matthew 7:24-37
Matthew 8:22-26
Matthew 9:14-29
Matthew 10:46-52
Luke 4:33-39
Luke 5:12-15
Luke 5:17-26
Luke 6:6-10

Luke 7:1-17
Luke 8:43-46
Luke 9:37-42
Luke 11:14
Luke 13:11-17
Luke 14:1-5
Luke 18:35-43
Luke 22:51
John 4:46-54
John 5:2-15
John 9:6-7
John 11:43-44

NOWHERE do we find Jesus refusing to heal anyone. In light of Jesus' statement that He could nothing of Himself but only what He saw the Father do (**John 5:19** and **8:28-29**), His actions are proof that IT IS ALWAYS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL.

HEALING AND THE HARVEST

Matthew 9:35-38: a connection of healing and the harvest.

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." **Matthew 9:35-38**

- All the places Jesus went, the same things happened. (v35)
 - Teaching
 - Preaching the Gospel of the kingdom.
 - Healings of every kind.
- Jesus saw people in a way that released compassion. (v36)
 - People were distressed and harassed.
 - People were dispirited, thrown down or broken.
 - People were lost...without destiny or eternal purpose.
- Jesus gives a prayer assignment. (v 37-38)
 - The harvest is rich, ripe, and plentiful.
 - There is a shortage of workers.
 - Ask the Lord of the Harvest for harvesters.

Luke 14:16-24: healing – the compelling evidence

¹⁶ But He said to him, “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; ¹⁷ and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ ¹⁹ Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’ ²⁰ Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’ ²¹ And the slave came *back* and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ ²² And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’ **Luke 14:16-24 NASB**

- People were not compelled by invitations. (v16-20)
- Skip the polite invitations.
 - Go get the poor.
 - Go get the crippled.
 - Go get the blind.
 - Go get the lame.
 - **STILL THERE IS ROOM!**
- Go and compel them to come in so the house is full.
- Could the healing of the poor, crippled, blind and lame be the evidence that will compel multitudes so that the house is full??

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. ³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:1-7 NASB**

- Those in darkness will see a great light. (The light of the world)
- Multiplication...great increase.
- The only comparison is “the gladness of Harvest.”
- His power and presence will break the yoke of oppression.
- This all is the result of the presence of the King.
- There will be no end to the increase of His government or peace.
- The zeal of the Lord of Host (not human ambition) will accomplish all this.