

We're in a series of messages in pursuit of discovering who God is based on the personal encounters Jesus had w/ people during His earthly ministry – snapshots of the person, nature, and activity of God that affords us a glimpse into the glory of our wonderful Lord and Savior.

So far we've experienced the generosity of God in the story of Nicodemus in *John 3* and the mercy of God in the story of the woman caught in adultery in *John 8*. Today we're going seek to experience firsthand that Jesus is HEALER.

Let me go on record to say I have no idea what God might do today; but I believe He wants to move in a powerful way among us as we gather. Honestly, we're not going to be very Baptist today; but as always, we will be Biblical.

When I began praying about this study 9 mos. ago, this was the day God kept bringing to mind. But in the last few weeks I've been getting excited about what God might do today. And not just me – for nearly a month, our prayer ministry has been preparing/seeking God's heart for today. They've been waging a spiritual war in the heavenlies believing God wants to heal and set people free into His hope and rest.

So what is healing? Who needs it? How do we experience it?

Of the 37 miracles recorded in the N.T. Jesus performed – 31 of them were of a healing nature. From the blind, to the sick, to the lame, deaf, and dying – the touch of Jesus **changed** destinies, **declared** majesty, and **dumbfounded** skeptics. And best of all – **God is still today in the healing business.**

Even in our church, in recent months, we've witnessed many physical healings such as w/ Kathryn Brezina, Debbie Roof, and Eric Philips. We've seen the miracle of salvation in other people giving their lives to Christ. And we have many who'd testify that they've broken free from harmful and deceptive tendencies to experience real freedom for the 1st time in their lives. *And God wants to move again.*

As we begin to think on the topic of healing, I believe there are a few questions we must address for understanding.

I Why is there a NEED for Healing?

To help us find an answer to this question, I believe we can gain a little perspective from a story of healing in **John 9**.

*As he went along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus replied, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. **This happened so the works of God might be displayed in him.** As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming,*

when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud w/ His saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “Wash in the Pool of Siloam.” So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

In this amazing story of Jesus healing the blind man, we find many reasons as to why healing is needed.

1 B/c we’re born into a sinful, fallen world and bad things can happen to good people b/c of the infection of sin

While there’s not an obvious statement to this idea, the truth is inferred by the very question asked. We have pain, hurt, sickness, disease, and even death b/c of the fall.

The very reason Jesus took on flesh and entered time and space was to heal man’s relationship w/ God and to provide an atoning sacrifice to conquer sin, death, and the grave.

2 B/c personal sin, or even the sin of someone else, can inflict/infect the lives of others – the wages of sin

Note the question of the disciples – ***Who sinned?*** It’s not just that we live in a sinful world, but we’re all guilty of sinning. And the price for sin isn’t just of an eternal nature, but an earthly nature too. We can very well face the consequences of our action.

Quite simply, when we sin, there are consequences to both the person who commits the sin, but also, potentially to people caught in the wake of the wages of that sin.

Remember the Lord's Supper text in *1 Cr. 12*. It says many had experienced sickness and even death b/c of their sin against the body. Our sin has consequences – ripples that can affect our selves and others.

3 B/c God has an eternal and earthly plan to reveal His glory through the human condition and afflictions to reveal that Jesus is the only true way to the Father.

*This happened so the works of God might be displayed...
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

By definition, a miracle occurs when God enters into the natural order of the universe He created to perform the supernatural to **REFLECT** His glory, to **REVEAL** His person, to **RELEASE** His Power, to **RESCUE** His people and to **REDEEM** the lost. We cannot forget that the greatest miracle of all is forgiveness unto salvation – when a person who is lost and dead in their sin is found and given life.

4 B/c God wants to empower us w/ the Gospel story that He changes lives and can heal on all levels, most importantly, that He heals spiritually.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some claimed he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” 9:8-11

A second time they summoned the man who’d been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” 9:24-25

Now this is huge. In the chance you experience healing on this side of eternity – God didn’t perform this miracle just to give you a longer life, **but to empower you w/ a story to be used to declare His glory and His salvation.**

Which begs the question – Why do people want healing?

If we were honest, far too many people want to experience healing so they can spend a few more days on this earth to enjoy their families, make more money, or add to their legacy. But that’s not why God heals. He heals to use our lives for His glory and to arm us w/ a testimony of His grace. Anything less is to misunderstand the sovereignty of God.

While the healing power of God might include our earthly good; it is always, ultimately for our eternal need and for the eternal need of others – and for a few more hours on earth.

5 B/c God wants to confront and confound the faith of the religious to remind them that He is God

We also see this truth here in this story. From *vs. 13-34*, we witness two exchanges w/ the religious establishment as they struggle to grasp the miracle at hand. The Pharisees simply refused to believe that Jesus had given sight to this man.

Sometimes we need to be reminded that God is large and in charge and there's nothing beyond His ability. Yet all too often, we try to stuff God in a tiny box of our faithlessness rather than believing that He can and that He just might.

6 B/c God is allowing a challenging moment in our lives to strengthen and bring us into alignment w/ Him

Jesus heard they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking w/ you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so the blind will see and those who see will become blind." 9:35-39

Whether you call it a tap on the shoulder, a time out, or a tool to build our faith – God is constantly moving in our lives for our good and His glory to draw into intimacy.

II What is **REQUIRED** for Healing?

While it's not necessarily obvious in this passage, what we see throughout the Gospel narrative is a willing desperation on behalf of the person wanting to find healing.

From the woman w/ the issue of blood, to Bartimaeus, and nearly everyone in b/w – when a person heard Jesus was near, **they did whatever they could to put themselves in His path. They saw Jesus is there only hope.**

Can I be honest? While I'm a big believer in doctors and modern medicine, I don't see doctors as my source of healing, but as instruments Jehovah Rapha uses to help orchestrate healing. For while there's some explanation for medical healing, there are untold stories of healings taking place beyond the scope of medicine and doctors.

Truthfully, sometimes God uses the medical community to touch our lives – and sometimes He confounds them!

I believe (3) things are necessary to release God to heal – a sense of desperation, an act of faith, and a willing spirit of obedience to follow – b/c it might not make earthly sense.

III What is my ROLE in Healing?

There are (2) things we can do as it pertains to healing.

A TRUST the Healer for Yourself

Whether you experience complete healing or NO healing this side of eternity – God desires we put our absolute trust in Him and in Him alone.

I want to make a comment here – healing can come on many levels and for many reasons beyond our prevue. And even in those moments when we might become weary in our waiting – God encourages us to seek support from the body that we might not loose heart. See *James 5:13-16*

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them w/ oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

sick (*astheneos*) to be spiritually weak. To fail or faint under the pressure of persecution.

B HELP to Bring Others to the Healer

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus b/c of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:1-6

A second way we can participate is by bringing our friends and wading through the crowds to get them to Jesus.

If not you; then who? Who in your life is in need of the healing touch of the Master? Who needs God to invade their life at the point of their need to see Him do the miraculous?

I want to let you know that if you don't know of anyone else – Meg and I are in need of your encouragement and prayers for the healing of our son.