

“Jesus: The Great Physician”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

John 5: 1-9 (NIV)

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda^[a] and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” ⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.

Subject Question: According to John’s gospel account, what three lessons can we glean from Jesus’ role as the Great Physician?

Compliment answer: Many are Sick. Some are Chosen. All are Healed.

Big Idea: According to John’s gospel account, the three lessons can we glean from Jesus’ role as the Great Physician are: Many are Sick. Some are Chosen. All are Healed.

Homiletical Idea: “God is Healing”

Purpose: I want the congregation to consider for themselves the real healing that Jesus offers.

Introduction: This is the fourth in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. John has shown us Jesus’ roles as Son of God in chapter one, Son of man in chapter two, Divine teacher in chapter three, and Soul winner in chapter four. Chapter five plays off of chapter four in the sense that when a soul is won for Jesus that person is both permanently and partially

healed by Jesus. Today we consider what it means to be healed by the Great Physician.

Groundwork: *If Jesus Is the Same Today, Why Isn't Everyone Healed Instantly?*

If we want to understand why everyone isn't healed when we pray for them, we have to recognize, first, that even Jesus didn't heal everyone at the first touch or command. For example, in Mark 8:22-25, we encounter the blind man who required a second touch from Jesus before he was healed. In Luke 8:27-33, we read of the demonized man who Jesus delivered from a legion of demons. In verse 29, we read that Jesus "had been commanding the unclean spirit to come out of the man." Clearly, more than one command was required. Next, we have to understand something about the way YHWH has chosen to work.

Although he's King of all, he tends to let us act as if we are kings of our own lives. He has given us a wonderful body that is self-healing if we give it the nutrients, rest, air and water it needs-- and avoid those things that damage the body. But far too often, we don't. We tend to be careless with our bodies, especially when young. Our souls are also self-healing, although in a different way. While I have seen Jesus respond with miraculous healings that follow almost immediately after a prayer, most of the time healings occur more slowly, frequently against the dire predictions of the physician. If I and others who prayed for some of those healings had given up when we didn't see the healing right away, we might well have missed the joy of seeing Jesus do his stuff. In many cases, the body's or soul's ability to receive healing has been impaired by one or more barriers that must be dealt with before healing takes place. For example, just some of the impediments that often make it hard for a person to heal include the following:

- Psychosomatic illness is often caused by emotional trauma or dysfunction, e.g. unforgiveness, abuse in childhood, broken relationships, shame, stress, fear, bitterness, unresolved anger, depression, loneliness, unmet needs, rejection or abandonment: Sometimes pastoral prayer, prayer to heal past hurts, helps root out those causes and frees the person to receive healing. For example, unforgiveness is like trying to receive something with your hands clenched shut: Once forgiveness starts working, healing prayer often does too.
- Physical injury or damage can be caused by the person being prayed for, e.g. abusing alcohol, tobacco or drugs; poor dietary practices; or insufficient, excessive or improper physical activity: a change in practice is indicated along with prayer.
- Disease caused, e.g., by bacteria, virus, cancer, or fungus or an autoimmune condition may need an antibiotic or medical procedure in addition to prayer: It does not show lack of faith to suggest seeing a doctor. Medicine is a gift from YHWH.
- Malfunctions caused by age or genetic defects or weaknesses may require special treatments or assistance, and while YHWH can and has corrected such conditions, prayer may need to focus on encouragement, comfort, acceptance and support.

- Resisting YHWH's word to follow our own path (sin): Stepping down from the throne and surrendering to him makes healing prayer much more effective.

Several of these factors together may impede the body's or soul's self-healing. We, as prayer ministers are not physicians, and we should never suggest that people discontinue their medications or other treatments. But we do try to diagnose what a person needs in order to receive a healing, so that we can choose an effective spiritual "medicine" for that particular condition, such as prayer, laying on of hands, speaking to a condition, or deliverance.

--David W. Eckman

(Can we be healed today?)

- A. Many are Sick. (vs. 1-5) *Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.*
- B. **“Some time later”** connects the Soul- wining conversation with the woman at the well of chapter four to our healing conversation the man at the pool in chapter five. The fact of the matter is the sick and the poor, we will always have with us. Jesus’ actions here show us that He was and is very aware of the malady’s, besides our spiritual condition, that can wreak havoc in our lives.
- C. Even as Christians we experience illness. And yes, sometimes God chooses to heal us and sometimes he chooses not to. His love for us nor our love for Him should be contingent upon a healing touch in this lifetime. Do not buy into the wrong premise that: “if you only had more faith, God would heal you.” Our part has never been to tell God what to do... Our part is to believe God can, His part is to make the decision according to His divine plan for a person’s life weather to heal or not to heal.
- D. The truth of the matter is that this man at the pool like the woman at the well, didn’t just need a healing touch, they needed God’s resurrection touch. The needed to experience new life—a different kind of healing: Healing of the soul and heard, not just the body. Paul writes in Ephesians 2: *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for*

us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

(Can we be healed today?)

- A. Some are Chosen (vs. 6) ⁶ *When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”*
- B. Two facts jump out at us here. First, there were many others in the place who needed Jesus healing touch—why did He pass some over and chose this man. Second, the man was obviously sick, why did Jesus ask Him if he wanted to get well. The answer to both is I don’t know. I do know that Jesus chose this man. I do know that Jesus realized that not everyone who claims that they want God’s healing touch, really mean it.
- C. And perhaps this is the crux of the story. Jesus comes to some and extends an invitation to be healed. It is God’s sovereign choice to call and to heal those whom he wants. God’s love call to all humankind goes out through John 3:16, For God so loves the world that He gave his only begotten son that who-so-ever believes...
- D. Can I let you in on a little secret? God knows who the “who-so-ever’s” are before they believe. And if you’re here this morning, you my beloved are one of the one’s who God has called or whom God is calling. Stop worrying about God being fair and examine your own personal life. Has he or is he calling you? Has he called you to be healed? The real question is... DO YOU want to be healed? Some are chosen.... thank God that some are, praise God that you are.

(Can we be healed today?)

- A. All are Healed (vs. 7-9) ⁷ *“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”* ⁸ *Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”* ⁹ *At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.*
- B. Notice that Jesus never really got a straight answer to his question—just excuses. Also, Jesus never said, be healed: He just said, get up and walk. Ever ask yourself why? It’s not that complicated really.
- C. The temporal healing performed here is more about the real eternal healing that Jesus can and does do in His role as Great Physician. To

those whom He wins... he heals permanently; you have been raised from spiritual death to new life---and that is the greatest miracle that there is. But you also are only healed partially, because you live in this world is a full of disease and death... but someday

- D. The meaning behind the healing is such: many are called but few are chosen. But those who are, Jesus speaks the word of new created life to their hearts. And no amount of excuses can stop the heavenly hound's decision to choose and to heal those who have been predestined to come to Him. All whom God chooses to heal are healed... Get up and walk.

(Can we be healed today?)