

# THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS ... PART 1

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### 15.4.17

We have kept Passover a few days ago. One of the key elements was looking at Jesus body ... broken for our healing. Symbolised by breaking bread and eating it (and in the Old Testament ... eating the lamb).

Most people understand reasonably well about Jesus' shed blood for the forgiveness of sins ... but far fewer people have any real grasp about Jesus as our Healer. Probably because it's not preached very often.

But since we are in the Passover season ... we will take a closer look at Jesus' Healing Ministry. Did Jesus heal? Well ... He did. Often or rarely? Was it incidental to His Ministry? Did He heal just to prove He was The Messiah? We've got 4 Gospel records ... what do they reveal? What can we learn?

#### **Matthew 4:23-25 (NKJV)**

23 **And Jesus went about all Galilee, *teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.***

24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and **they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; *and He healed them.* (Implied ... all)**

25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

Jesus had a 3-part Ministry. Should we expect the same ministry today? Through His representatives. Or ... just a 2-part (or even 1-part) Ministry today? I would expect Jesus Ministry to be the same today. Jesus Christ the same yesterday ... today ... and forever.

Healing plays a big part in the Gospel accounts: 3,800 verses overall ... about 20% (1/5<sup>th</sup>) relate to Healing. Take out healing ... and the Gospel accounts would be very much shorter.

### **Acts 10:36-39 (NKJV)**

36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—

37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:

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

39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

A number of Gospel accounts are fairly “general”.

### **Matthew 8:14-17 (NKJV)**

14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever.

15 So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And **He cast out the spirits with a word, and *healed all who were sick***,

17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

***“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore our sicknesses.”***

### **Matthew 12:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and **He healed them all**. (*Great multitudes ... thousands of people*)

Were these healings for the purpose of “advertising” His Ministry? No! See the next verse.

### **Matthew 12:16 (NKJV)**

16 Yet **He warned them not to make Him known**,

There are quite a few places where Jesus is recorded as healing all. It should be quite encouraging? You won't see any evidence of Jesus turning people away ... “you're not good enough” ... or “God put this sickness on you” ... “I'd love to heal you but ... it's not God's will” etc. These are excuses we often hear today. But there is no record or example of such in Jesus's Ministry.

What I'd like to do today ... and next time ... is to focus more closely at some of the very specific individual healings that Jesus performed.

There are conversations that took place ... a variety of circumstances ... some very different from each other. Let's see what we can learn by examining these individual ... “bespoke” healings in detail.

Altogether ... there are about 20 individual specific healings. Let's see what we can learn.

### **Mark 1:40-45 (NKJV)**

40 **Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”**

41 Then **Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."**

42 **As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.**

43 And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once,

44 and said to him, **"See that you say nothing to anyone;** but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

45 However, he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

Nearly everybody believes that Jesus is able to heal. The question is: Is He willing?

Note: Jesus' compassion (not thinking about how much fame he will get with the local press). Jesus touched him ... which would have stunned the leper. (Luke's account said that he was full of leprosy)

Note there is no discussion here about whether the man is good enough ... deserving ... tithed regularly ... prayed regularly.

Then: Don't publish this around. Keep quiet ... other than witness to the Priest. (They had to confirm that the leper had been cleansed. There is no record of any other leper being healed in over 1,400 years. The Pharisees have a teaching that only the Messiah could cleanse a leper. Did they acknowledge this? No. But ... it was a testimony to the Priests.).

This is the most common question today ... even among Jesus's brothers and sisters. "I know God can heal me ... but ... I don't know if He is willing".

Well. Just look at Jesus' Ministry. What did He say? What did He do? He said He was willing.

### **Luke 17:11-19 (NKJV)**

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 Then as He entered a certain village, **there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.**

13 And **they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"**

14 So when He saw them, **He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."** And so it was that **as they went, they were cleansed.**

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

19 And **He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."**

Here's a good opportunity for Jesus to show that not all qualify? They probably had very different backgrounds? Where's the evidence of Jesus picking and choosing? "You 5 are okay ... but not you others". God isn't super selective of who to heal. The only qualification necessary was: "Come to Jesus"?

It is unfortunate that only one came back grateful. It should make us all think about how grateful we are for our blessings ... or do we just take them for granted?

Note: healed AS they went ... so some faith was necessary?

**Luke 13:10-17 (NKJV)**

10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

11 And behold, **there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years,** and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. (*Spirit of infirmity from satan ... verse 16*)

12 But **when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."**

13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?"

16 **So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"**

17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Note: Jesus healed ... nice and simple ... no reference to "sister, God's given you this infirmity to teach you to be humble ... this is building your character and patience" ... "this is a blessing in disguise". None of the excuses and reasoning we so often use today. This was satan!

Jesus healed. And God got the Glory!! From healing her! Not from her sickness. Pretty straight forward ... satan made her sick ... God healed her.

**Mark 5:25-34 (NKJV)**

25 **Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,**

26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

27 **When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.**

28 For she said, **"If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."**

29 **Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.**

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" (*He had no idea*)

31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "

32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."**

Did Jesus at any point evaluate this woman? Did he ask her about her former conduct? Does she merit healing? No. Jesus wasn't even aware until after she's been healed.

It indicates that Jesus isn't choosing who to heal and who not?

Notice: she approached in faith. And spoke it (if I can touch the hem of His garment ... I'll be healed). That was a statement of Faith. No doubts! No "if it's God will".

Her faith was AN ACTIVE FAITH. She didn't stay at home. Her faith had works.

### James 2:20 (NKJV)

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?**

Jesus' conclusion: Your faith has made you well ... not Jesus' faith.

### Mark 2:1-12 (NKJV)

1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

3 **Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.**

4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. **So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.**

5 **When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."** (by corresponding actions)

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, (which is something we shouldn't do)

7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?

10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic,

11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"



Jesus "saw their faith" ... by corresponding actions. Persistent ... assertive faith ... they didn't stop at obstacles. "Well we tried ... but too busy. If God had wanted to heal you ... He'd have made a way ... made it easier ... given a special sign".

(In Luke's account ... it specifically says that God's power was present to heal them. But only one received healing. Because the rest "reasoned in their hearts". They had to use their logical ... rational brains.

### **John 9:1-7 (NKJV)**

**1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.**

**2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (That was something that the Jews did believe ... that you could sin in the womb)**

**3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But that the works of God should be revealed in him.**

**4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me** while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

**5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."**

**6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.**

**7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.**

Some say, "See ... God made this man be born blind ... to get glory from his healing". So maybe God made me sick. Well ... fine. Get healed and give God the glory!

**DON'T SAY GOD MADE HIM BLIND!** How cruel would that be? ... to his parents ... to the man himself as a baby ... as a young boy ... as a teenager? **THIS IS NOT HOW GOD WORKS.**

Compare:

**John 9:2-4 (CEV)**

2 Jesus' disciples asked, "Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?"

3 "No, it wasn't!" Jesus answered. "*But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him.*"

4 As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work.

In verse 4 (NKJV) "work the works" ... Healing is a work of God.

Jesus isn't in conflict with His Father. God made him blind ... Jesus healed him. That's not happening.

Note: it took some faith for the man to go to the pool (half a mile away). He could have just brushed the mud/spittle off?

The whole idea that God made an innocent baby blind twenty or thirty years earlier ... so that Jesus could do a sign ... IS NONSENSE!

Jesus gave only one sign. Three days/nights in the grave and resurrection. God didn't make the baby blind so that He could get a sign out of it.

Again ... as far as the Rabbis and teachers were concerned ... only The Messiah could restore sight to someone who was born blind. So ... did they believe that Jesus was The Messiah? No!

**Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)**

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, (Luke says ... he loved the Jewish people ... and built their synagogue)

6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, dreadfully tormented."

7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. (He humbles himself) But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. (Speak the word: Give the command ... and it will happen. He didn't need oil or incense or cloths or laying on of hands ... JUST SPEAK! He knew that God's Word carried authority)

9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

This is GREAT FAITH. No physical evidence necessary.

The centurion was entirely confident of relying on Jesus' Word. Are we? Do we have great faith like the Roman centurion? See what George Muller said:

*"Faith is the assurance that the things God said in His Word are true! And that God will act according to what He has said in His Word. This assurance, this reliance on God's Word, this confidence, is Faith."*

#### **Matthew 9:27-31 (NKJV)**

27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

*They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."*

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

Have Mercy. None of us qualifies for healing ... of ourselves we are not good enough. Not because of our family backgrounds ... not based on education ... or church attendance.

But ... God's Mercy is available to all.

Jesus said, "According to your faith". So ... not just up to Jesus?! Their faith is present.

#### **Matthew 20:29-34 (NKJV)**

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" (*"Son of David" indicates their belief that Jesus is The Messiah*)

31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" (Again ... they sought mercy)

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (Wasn't it obvious? :) Yes! But ... don't forget to ask)

33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

God knows what we want. And we sort of know He knows. But it is still a good habit to actually ask.

#### **James 4:1-3 (NKJV)**

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. **Yet you do not have because you do not ask.**

3 **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss,** that you may spend it on your pleasures.

If we ever need faith (for example ... for healing) ... where does it come from?

#### **Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It doesn't say ... faith comes by "having heard". If we want to develop faith ... plant yourselves in God's Word and read it.

