

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## I Am Willing

Matthew 8:1-17

Previously:

- Jesus' birth, baptism
- Rebuke of the religious
- Disciples called
- Healings
- The Sermon on the Mount
- Jesus said hard things

### Today: Healings

God uses healings to bring people to know Him.  
To show his power to listen to his word

Relationship of the body and sickness  
To the spirit and sin

### Sickness then vs. sickness now

Then - lots of chronic pain, early deaths

*Pool at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)*

Our society, medicine - and the Word  
Others

### ***Washing of the water of the Word***

*Are you sick or well? What about those in your life?*

**Paul was sick**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV** - And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I be exalted above measure.** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** **Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in**

reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Physical healing is not guaranteed as a believer  
Spiritual healing is

*But God can use the physical to reveal the spiritual - parables (proverb)*

**Matthew 9:12b NKJV - [Jesus] said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."**

**[Pray]**

**8:1-4**

**The great multitudes return**

Many in the crowds seeking when it's easy, when they're something to be had

Some who **wouldn't** make the trip

Some who **couldn't** make the trip

*They really missed out! But Jesus wouldn't pass them by.*

**A leper**

Leprosy - scaly, rough

*The disease affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. Leprosy is curable and treatment during early stages can prevent disability.*

*Leprosy is transmitted via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.*

**Lose nerve sensation, burn yourself, fall off, highly contagious**

***Leper colony in Bahamas, now AIDS and abandoned people colony***

*The people there.*

***We don't have leper colonies, but we do have high drug and homeless areas.***

*Places where the outcast go - but they go ultimately from bad choices they made*

**Leprosy now curable, wasn't then.**

*Moses - Lev 13-14, gross, but there was a condition for the incurable who had been cured  
Bible is true, God knew that it was curable, but out of their power!*

**What is out of your power that is going on in your life?  
Do you act like it's out of God's power, too?**

*Leprosy vs. sin*

**He wasn't supposed to be around them!** Picture this man's life and what he had to do to get there, close to Jesus. What he risked.

**And worshipped him saying...**

His coming to Jesus for healing, in his attitude, in his words, in his spiritual need...**was worship!**

Asking God for healing is an ... act of worship!

**"If you are willing..."** hear his heart.

He knew and believed God **could**. But wasn't sure if he **would**.

*Did he feel worthless? Unvalued? Alone? Disgusting? Unworthy of God's time?*

**When we pray, we need to be open to the fact that God can, and may do it, but also may have a bigger plan for it**

*People healed in the Bible - many went through years of suffering - and ultimately that suffering and their healing brought glory to God and salvation to those around them*

*How mean! That's not the heart of God.*

*There are **many reasons why** we are sick or why he won't heal us.*

***Maybe we just haven't asked to be healed?***

**"I am willing"** can you hear Jesus' tone?

Not the same words, but the same phrase in English. **I AM**. That's the name of God.

**God is willing to heal you.**

*to will, have in mind, intend*

*to be resolved or determined, to purpose*

*to desire, to wish*

*to love*

*to like to do a thing, be fond of doing*

*to take delight in, have pleasure*

**He touched him to heal him**

Touch to a leper! Not afraid. Personal closeness.

*I'll bet that touch went deep into his soul*

**Don't tell anyone! Just go fulfill the law.**

**Jesus was using this man to testify to the priests!**

**Trying to wake them up to their need of a touch from God, just like this man.**

*"His works confirmed His words"*

**Man was cleansed - physically and spiritually**

Able to be back in society, with his family and friends, and back in the temple

**:5-6****Comparison of Matthew, Mark & Luke - Different chronology**

DGC Matthew doesn't claim to be chronological, but more topical order - revealing the ministries

**Centurion**

Roman commander of 100+ men

*Luke 7:1-10 mentions he built them a synagogue*

**This was a gentile who came to faith in the Hebrew God**

Rahab in Jericho

Ruth, the Moabite

**He cared about his servants, slaves**

*Slavery a normal thing in all of history*

*Doesn't mean it's good - but a fact of life.*

*Jesus doesn't command him to release his servant*

*Slavery based on someone's characteristics or being less than human = evil*

*Slavery/servanthood - not necessarily. Our modern work model, not much different*

*Founding fathers, GW gave his land to his chief slave, like a son*

**Are you in any form of debt?**

Then you're a servant, or more likely, a slave!

**Proverbs 22:7 NKJV - The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower [is] servant to the lender.**

**Paralyzed, dreadfully tormented torture**

This was not from birth. Something happened. Something awful. Broke his back? Mangled body? Sickness affecting his nerves, body control?

*Mephibosheth - dropped as a baby*

**For the injured, think about the labor consequences** of not being able to work  
What would happen to you and your family

**This isn't what the Centurion was worried about.**

He wasn't about profits, but about people.

*Commentary mentions pleading*

**:7-13**

**At home - Jesus says I'll go there. Jesus was willing to go.**

*In part, I think this was a set up, trying to draw this man's faith out for all to see*

*His mission was to reach people, but that didn't make him too busy to reach them individually*

**Centurion was humble, knew how Holy God is  
Knew God's power. The Lord of Hosts.**

*Do you think he read those scriptures? Heard about them from those at the Synagogue?*

**Using this Gentile, This Roman Soldier** (occupying force, rep of Caesar, Rome's power, enemy of Israel) - **to point them to true, believing, living and active, faith.**

***Such great faith!***

***Not even in Israel***

*An exhortation, and a rebuke*

**Jesus uses this to teach that just because you're Hebrew, an Israelite,  
doesn't mean that you're going to heaven.**

Doesn't mean that you know God. Are in the company of Abraham and Isaac.

**Many from around the world**

Christianity isn't a European religion - not even a middle eastern one. It's for the entire world.

**Revelation 7:9-10 NKJV - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"**

Cast into outer darkness  
Weeping and gnashing of teeth

**Whatever torment this servant was suffering, was not as bad as the torment for those apart from God in eternal darkness**

**Jesus says that he's healed and sends the soldier away**  
**As you have believed, so let it be done for you**

*a faith that bears fruit! God is happy to fulfill for this man what he knows God to be capable of.*

*His faith wasn't for himself. It was for those under his care.*

**What do you know, in your heart, with your faith, what God is capable of?**  
*Is it anything? Is it limited?*  
*What are you believing God for? For those around you?*

**That same hour**  
He gets home and is told what time his servant got better.  
*Great children's book we have*

**:14-15**

**They get to Simon Peter's house**  
Wife's mother sick. I get the impression that she was saved, Peter's wife was  
That "salvation had come to this home"

*Ashlee's family's salvation*

**Peter having a wife**  
**1 Corinthians 9:3-10 NKJV - My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as [do] also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or [is it] only Barnabas and I [who]**

*have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a [mere] man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say [it] altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, [this] is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

**The scriptural logic for the pope and catholicism just isn't there.**

***Marriage is one of the first of Divine institutions, and is a positive command of God."***  
(Clarke)

**She lived with Peter and his wife.**

Her husband is not in the picture. Potentially older.  
Families together. The way it's been for most of history.

**The sadness of casting family out for others to care for them**

Day care to old age home - we do not care for our family in our world  
*It's one thing if they aren't able to be cared for  
Or have put themselves in trouble and aren't willing to change to be able to  
receive the proper care*

**But the attitude towards our children and elders is not one of family in our society  
It shouldn't be so in the church.**

**Nobody asked, she was just sick. Jesus healed her.**

**She had a fever. A cold. The flu. Something minor. But he cared just as much.**

Do we pray over the little things? Do we think God only cares when it's major?  
*Being little, anointed with oil*

***James 5:13-18 NKJV - 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. Confess [your] trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.***

*Sometimes God allows these things into our lives that we may see that we haven't been praying. Not a punishment, but a wake up call.*

***A call to live by prayer, in sickness or in health.***

**But she was just resting. But her heart was to serve.**

*I think part of Jesus healing her was to give her hearts desire*

*Not wanting to be sick with Jesus over, wanting to get up and take care of her family and guests*

*The sweetness of true Godly hospitality. It's a spiritual gift.*

## **:16-17**

**When evening had come**

That's a full day

But also after supper, maybe some of the crowds died down

Maybe they couldn't bring these people out in the daylight

*Danger to themselves and others*

**He cast out the spirits with a word**

**Healed all who were sick**

**Mental illness** - many things science doesn't explain, can't understand, have tried and failed for over a century.

**What they get wrong is - they don't believe in the spirit, in sin**

Many of these "mental illness" issues, are really spiritual, sin issues

*As a child, hearing about "alcoholism as a disease"*

It's not a disease. It's an addiction.

There may be genetic factors involved - I'm Irish, I come from a line of drinkers

I was one. Addicted to alcohol. Drugs. And more. Depressed.

But the problem for me, at the core, was spiritual.

**When Jesus came into my life, those things went by the wayside  
because the underlying issue was dealt with.**

*All the things being "normalized" today - are because they think the cure is acceptance - if it's not sinful, it's not wrong. If you think this way, act this way, want to walk around believing you're a duck, then you're a duck!*

*(pun) it's all quackery!*

**DGC Josephus, their own historian, says of them: There was not (said he) a nation under heaven more wicked than they were. Secondly, because they were then strongly addicted**



**to magic, and so, as it were, invited evil spirits to be familiar with them.” (Clarke)**

**Do you know what the word for sorcery in the NT is? Pharmakeia - narcotics.**

*Drug use. Drug use in worship. In witchcraft. See any similarities with our society? The exposure to all sorts of indecency, corruption, sin, perversion, etc. on social media? In school!*

**And I'm not making light of mental illness.** *There are those who's spirit is fine, but their mind is broken. Physically broken. And for those, medicine, science, all the like to make their life easier, and for those around them.*

**But the point is - who do we turn to first? For the real answer, the deep answer? The spiritual and the physical truth?**

**Cast them out with a word. “In the beginning was the Word”**

The truth of the Bible is what can heal.

The power of God is in the Word.

And then in the touch.

**In all of this...Jesus fulfills the word**

That Jesus had the power to do all of this because He is God.

It, in a sense, was a prelude, a taste over his power over sin and death

Sin entered the world, death entered, and disease with it

They're related

**They won't exist in the New Heavens & Earth**

**Do you need healing? Spiritually? Physically? Jesus is able. He is willing.**

**Worship him by asking. Worship him in the answer.**