

## Lesson 5

### Healing the Sick



When it comes to being a disciple of Jesus, we always look at what Jesus did, to live like a disciple. When Jesus was walking the earth, He did two things:

1. He preached the gospel
2. He healed everyone who was sick.

Jesus paid the price on the cross to save us from our sins, but he also paid the price for healing. He showed this by healing the sick but did not stop there. He took it further by saying “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few”.

He called his disciples to Him and commanded them to do the same; to go out, preach the gospel and heal the sick.

### Previous Lessons Recap

#### Disciples

We are called to be disciples of Jesus and ambassadors of heaven here on earth.

*2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

*Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

A disciple is an apprentice who learns from his master until he can do all the master did. A good master will even encourage his apprentice to become better than he is.

Jesus said that we will do the things He did and even greater...

# 1. Healing

There are many books about healing in the world today and one book teaches healing from a certain perspective and the next book teaches it completely different.

**Discussion:** So what should we do? Who should we listen to?

Theology is dangerous because it creates doctrine opposite to what Jesus teaches. The right place to start looking at healing is to look at Jesus. He is our master and we are His apprentices.

If you want to look for work today, you prepare a resume and send this to an employer. They will look at a part of your life and decide whether they want to hire you or not.

**Discussion:** If we were to write a resume about the life of Jesus, what would we write?

A good place to start would be in Matthew.

*Matt 4:23 and he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people*



It is important to note that he healed them all.

Then in chapters 5, 6, 7 we read how He preached.

In chapters 8 & 9 some healings are described in detail and later in chapter 9 that He healed every sickness and disease.

Looking at these passages in Matthew 4 & 9, how many people did Jesus heal and did they all get healed? Did He heal only 50 % of the people, 80% or maybe 98%?

Scripture says He healed them all.

*Matt 8:16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.*

*Matt 12:15 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all and ordered them not to make him known.*

*Matt 14:14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick*

*Matt 15:30 And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, 31 so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.*

*Matt 19:2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.*

*Matt 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.*

**Discussion:** Why did Jesus heal all the sick?

Jesus died on the cross for two reasons; to set us free from our sins and to take away our sickness. We believe the sin part more than we believe the sickness part. Yet we read in scripture that these are the two most prominent reasons why He died on the cross.

*1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”*

*Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

*Matt 8: 16-17 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.*

Jesus was confirming what the prophets like Isaiah were prophesying about Him.

The bible is clear on this. Jesus healed all who were sick as it was part of why He was to die on the cross.



## 2. The Harvest

In Matthew 9 we read about Jesus going .....and he saw a multitude of people and saw the sick among them. He then was moved with compassion. When he turned to His disciples, what did He say to them?

*Matt 9: 36-37 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*

There were so many needy people that he called His 12 disciples and gave them this command:

*Matt 10: 7-8 As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*

So let us recap for a minute.

Jesus preaches and heals. He sees the multitudes coming to Him. He acknowledges the need for more workers and then commands His disciples to do the same as He was doing.

In Luke 9 we read the same story but Luke gives even more detail in his account. After Jesus sends out the 12, He chooses 70 disciples and gives them the same commandment.

*Luke 10: 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you*

**Discussion:** Where did the 70 disciples come from?

There is a clear pattern to what we have read so far. Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God being here and he healed the sick. After He saw how big the harvest was, he called the 12 disciples to go and do what He commanded them to do; preach the gospel and heal the sick

Later, He sees the harvest has grown and sends out even more disciples to do exactly what He was doing.

Today, nothing has changed. If anything the harvest is much bigger and even more workers are needed.

### 3. The Great Commission

Let's say that I give my kids a command to clean the yard by doing the following:

- a.) Rake the dead leaves
- b.) Pick up any garbage
- c.) Mow the lawn

Are they obedient if they only pick up the garbage? What would you do, if they don't do all three?

Does the harvest and worker's scenario apply to us believers today? In Matthew 28 Jesus says the following:

*Matt 28: 19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*

To simplify, He was telling the disciples to go out and make disciples of all nations and gave them the same command He had given them to:

- a.) Proclaim the gospel
- b.) Heal the sick
- c.) Make disciples

If Paul was here today, what do you think he would command you to do? As a disciple, you have been called to proclaim the gospel, heal the sick and make other disciples.

### 4. Why healing?

It may sound like this teaching focuses purely on healing but nowhere in the bible do you read that Jesus commanded us to only preach the gospel. It is always coupled with healing. Healing is, first of all, a very strong evangelism tool.



(We heal the sick, proclaim the gospel and then make disciples)

I once asked Holy Spirit “ why healing?” He replied, “The world can take your car, your house, your family and friends away from you. You can lose your job and end up on the streets but you will still be alive and able to survive. But if you lose your health, what then?”

In previous lessons we learned that we do not need a special healing gift to heal the sick. The issue is, we

never practice doing it.

The average church today does not teach people how to heal the sick and Jesus knew this was going to happen as noted in Mark 7 below.

*Mark 7:13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”*

Traditions created by man have taken away the healing power of God. There are many churches whose teaching on healing consists of ten reasons why people don’t get healed.

**Discussion:** Was it only Jesus who healed multitudes of people?

*Acts 5:16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

So we read in the gospels that Jesus healed all who came to Him and in the book of Acts, we read that the disciples healed all who came to them.

## 5. Hindrances to healing

**Discussion:** Have you ever prayed for someone who did not get healed? What is our natural response when they don’t get healed? What reasons have you heard or given?

Our theology on healing is based on our experience, rather than on the word of God. Our experience should match the Word of God.

*Matt 17:14-18 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”*

*17 “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” 18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment*

Jesus wanted His disciples to set this boy free and heal him.

Every reason you can think of is not found anywhere in the bible.

There is only one reason why the sick are not healed when we pray for them.

*Matt 17: 19-20 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"*

*20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

The lack of faith is unbelief. Do you really believe the word of God and trust God to get the unbelief out of your life?

If you have enough faith to get saved, you have enough faith to heal the sick. These two things were provided for at the cross as we have already established.

## 5.1 Sacred Cows and Religious Lies

### 5.1.1 Faith

Faith is required to heal the sick. It's either the person who needs the healing that has the faith or the person praying. One example is the lady with the issue of blood in Matthew. She believed that if she touched Jesus, she would be healed. Another example in John, is Lazarus. He did not have any faith to be raised from the dead. It was Jesus' faith.



When you wish to see the sick healed, you need to be the one who brings faith to the prayer.

Sometimes, when praying for people, the Holy Spirit could reveal things to you that need to be done before the healing would manifest. For example, they need to forgive someone. All that actually happens, is that now both of the people begin believing that if the person forgives, they would be healed. So it's just that faith increased.

Don't go looking for excuses when you have a lack of faith.

### 5.1.2 Jesus and His home town

*Mark 6: 5-6 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith*

People use this scripture to say that a lack of faith on the people's part is why Jesus could not do many miracles there. Therefore, He must have prayed for many and no one got healed.....This is not what the scripture is saying.

**Discussion:** How many miracles do we see on a Sunday morning in church and why not? Also why when "special" preachers visit, do you see some miracles?

If people need healing and don't go forward for prayer, how could there be any healing miracles?

Mark 6 is exactly this. Jesus did not do many miracles because not many came to Him for healing, however, of those who came, all were healed.

### 5.1.3 Paul's thorn in the flesh

*2 Corinthians 12: 7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me (Read versus 1 to 10)*

Does Jesus or the disciples ever say to anyone who comes to Him for healing? "My grace is all you need, go away and continue to be sick"? No!

God does not need sickness to get us to change or to teach us something.

In verse 10 Paul talks about taking pleasure in this situation and then in the next verse he talks about persecution. He never mentions any sickness.

The next verses speak to the things Paul has gone through. He suffered through persecution and hardships. This was the thorn in his flesh, not sickness.

We have to ask ourselves, did Jesus die for our sins? Yes! Did Jesus die for our sickness? Yes! So, would Jesus give you sin to teach you something?

Jesus did not die for our persecution or hardships. When Paul prayed and asked God to take it away, he said my Grace is enough for you to carry you through.

## 6. Jesus our Master

Jesus called us to be disciples who need to learn how to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We need to learn to do what He has commanded us to do and we do it because we love Him.

If you have faith to be saved, you have enough faith to heal the sick.

*Mark 16:17-18 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

