

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

92- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 3

Church March 24, 2024

Matthew 9:18-35

18 While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

19 Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples.

20 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak;

21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."

22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

23 When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,

24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him.

25 But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

26 This news spread throughout all that land.

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up 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, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

The 66 Books of the Holy Bible- are filled with Pain and Agony and Suffering. And, unlike most other books- the Bible does NOT avoid or whitewash the Issue of the Suffering of people. The Scriptures address this Issue "head-on". And that is why it is mystifying to me that so many people, who say they're saved; and who say they read and study the Bible are deceived by the false Teaching of the Health and Prosperity Preachers.

Look, I fully understand why those who are Lost are attracted to this Abomination. *"You tell me that Jesus will always heal my body and will prosper me and I will be healthy and wealthy and be able to shop at all the nice stores and eat at all the fine Restaurants? Well, sure I'll come to a Jesus like that!"* But they say things like that because they haven't read the Bible and they don't understand why there is Suffering in this World. People like that; and the people who lead them; and feed them a damnable false Concept of God and this Life- don't understand that this World is irretrievably broken. Everything that God made- is now cursed by the God, Who made it. And everything is cursed because of Sin.

Yet God has chosen to be glorified through His Church- as the people of His Church- live their Lives in this broken World. And God is made to look glorious through a people who have an unshakable Hope and an unquenchable Joy in what God has either sovereignly *caused* or sovereignly *allowed* to come into their Lives. Because they have come to believe what David said 1,000 years before Jesus was born,

... Your lovingkindness is better than life ... (Psalm 63:3b)

The Lovingkindness of God is BETTER than this Life! The Lovingkindness of God is BETTER than all that this Life provides! It is BETTER than anything we can achieve in this Life! Yes, the Lovingkindness of our God is BETTER than all the good Health; and all

the economic Blessings; and all the material Goods that this Life affords! And it is BETTER than all of the “**momentary light Affliction**”¹ that we might face during our pilgrimage through this Life!

I began this verse-by-verse “Journey” through Matthew’s Gospel Record on November 14, 2021. So, today, I am now finishing my 28th Month of that “Journey”. If God is pleased- I’ll preach a Message on the Resurrection next Lord’s Day and so, I won’t be rejoining our Examination of the **Gospel of Matthew** again until April 7.

Now, if you’ve been with us in our “Journey” through this amazing Book- you know that the Focus of this Apostle is fourfold. Matthew is trying to convince his Jewish brethren that Jesus is:

1. The long-awaited Messiah
2. “Immanuel”
3. God
4. The 2nd Moses

And as the 2nd Moses- Jesus brings forth very deep; profound; and serious Teaching throughout this Book that is designed to take the Teaching of the Torah²- and raise it up to a much *higher* Level. Because as He taught, the people said this in **Matthew 7:28&29**:

28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

But as the Messiah; and Immanuel; and God- Jesus was transforming the World from an Old Covenant Reality to a Reality based on the infinitely superior New Covenant. But to do that- Jesus had to have “Divine Credibility” so that the people would know that He was truly “of” God. And so, we have learned that God made a Way for Jesus to obtain that “Divine Credibility”. The unknown writer put it like this in **Hebrews 2:3&4**:

3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

¹ 2Corinthians 4:17

² The “Torah” is the first five Books of Moses that are found in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Until the Advent of Jesus Christ- the Torah was the “*didactic Books*” of the Bible. They taught people how to live a Life that was pleasing to God. With the addition of the 27 Books of the New Testament- the didactic Books of the New Covenant are the 21 Epistles.

So, we have learned that Signs and Wonders; Miracles; and Gifts of the Holy Spirit- those four things- were NOT given by God so that Disease; Sickness; Disability; and Death would be *abolished* from the earth. These four things were NOT manifested by Jesus to even *abolish* those things from 1st Century Israel. Because there were many Jews, who lived in Israel during the Days of Jesus, who were sick; disabled; and who died- who were NOT helped by Jesus' Ministry.

As we have discovered in this Series- the Reason people get sick today and die- is because of the "Divine Curse" that God placed on all that He created when Adam sinned. And so, we are sick; disabled; infirm; and we die- either because of our own, personal Sins; or because of the Original Sin of Adam- or both. And that "Divine" Curse" will be upon all the Living until Jesus returns and destroys the "Last Enemy" which is "Death".

So, we have discovered two things about Disease; Disability; and Death:

1. There are Times when it is God's Will to temporarily *suspend* the "Divine Curse" and heal the physical bodies of people. And God does that either by Himself in a "*Miracle of Healing*"; through an Act of "*Divine Providence*"; or through the "*Common Grace*" of various "Remedies; Cures; Medicine; Surgeries; and Diet".
2. There are Times when it is NOT God's Will to temporarily suspend the "Divine Curse" and people get sick; they stay sick; and they die.

... and saved people will rejoice either Way- because those who have experienced the Miracle of the New Birth will always find the fullness of their own Joy- in God's Will being carried out in the earth to the same Extent; and with the same Urgency that the Will of God is "done" in Heaven.

And so, contrary to popular Teaching- the deciding Factor as to who is healed and who is NOT healed- has *infinitely* MORE to do with God's Will for that person; at that Time- than it does with how *much* or how *little* Faith the individual has.

So, for example, if a person has *strong* Faith- but it is NOT God's Will for that person to be healed- he will NOT be healed- no matter what he does; or how hard he prays; or how steadfastly he believes. Conversely, if a person has very *weak* Faith- but it IS God's Will to heal him- he WILL be healed- and NOTHING can stop it- not even his weak Faith!

Now we must remember what is fundamental to the God of the Bible- that He alone is the sole Distributer of Mercy. And God distributes His Mercy according to His Own Good Pleasure- and NOT as the result of any "arm

twisting” or “coercion” on our part. Please turn with me to read a very important passage found in **Romans 9** that gives us insight into God’s Character and Nature.

Romans 9:8-16

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

9 For this is the word of promise: "*AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.*"

10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;

11 for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

12 it was said to her, "*THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.*"

13 Just as it is written, "*JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.*"

14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

15 For He says to Moses, "*I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.*"

16 So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

So right here- in verse 16- God’s Word tells us that Healings and Miracles and Blessings and Deliverances and even Salvation itself does *not* depend on the person who “wills” (human Choice) or the person who “runs” (human Works). And these wondrous Acts of God’s Mercy also do *not* depend on the person who demonstrates great Faith; or the one who speaks “great swelling Words”. All of these wonderful and glorious Distributions of God’s Mercy depend on God Alone- Who chooses to show Mercy to whom He will show Mercy.

But when many people read things like that- they are tempted to think that God is- at times- Unmerciful. But that is *not* what Paul wrote here because that is NOT what Paul believed and it is NOT what he taught. Neither the Bible nor the Doctrines of Grace teach that God is Unmerciful or Unkind or Evil to anyone- ever! God *cannot* deny His own pristine Nature; and God *never* abrogates His own spotless Qualities. God is “Good” by Nature and therefore, God is *always* “Good”.

And so, EVERYTHING God does is “Good”; and it is “Right”; and it is “Perfect”- even when we do not see that. God is Kind by Nature and therefore, He is *always* Kind. God is Merciful by Nature and therefore, He is *always* Merciful. And this is so true that the great Reformer, Martin Luther said,

“God is Good and has the best for me every day. Therefore if He commands me to eat the cat dung from off the street- I will know that that is the best thing that God has for me that day”

Therefore- we are correct to think that there are Times when it is God’s Will; and there are times when it furthers God’s Purposes to Heal and Bless and Deliver His people. But then we must also understand that there are Times- known only to God- that Healings and Deliverances and Blessings and Rescues are *NOT* His Will and they do NOT further His Purposes. And in *those* Times- no amount of praying; and no amount of Faith; and no amount of “Claiming”; and no amount of “Speaking”; will change that.

And during *those* Times- during the Times when God chooses to be glorified by keeping His child *IN* the Suffering; and *IN* the Disease; or *IN* the Problem- rather than deliver him; and when God chooses to keep His child *IN* the Persecution or *IN* the Fire- rather than rescue him; and when God chooses to keep His child *IN* the Trial- rather than bless him; during *those* Times- the saved believing child of God is called upon to trust what the Scriptures teach about God being “Good”- which means that EVERYTHING God actively *causes* along with EVERYTHING God passively *allows*- to come into the Life of His own child is NOT merely something that God did; or did not do- but that it represents the very BEST thing that God could do to and for that individual; on that day! And so, in *those* Times- we are called upon to trust that, even though we do NOT understand what God is doing- we know that God knows what God is doing.

And so, in those Times- we glorify God by remaining faithful *IN* our Suffering. And the persecuted one is called upon to remain faithful *IN* his Persecution. And the sick one is called upon to remain faithful *IN* his Sickness. And the dying saint is called upon to remain faithful in his Death!

And so, we must know that if our Good and Merciful and Loving heavenly Father has allowed satan to get through Hedge of “Divine Protection” that is always around us- to touch our flesh- the Promise of Scripture is NOT that there is something deficient in the Hedge; it does NOT mean that God has forgotten us; or that He was asleep; or that He turned His Head and didn’t see satan go across the Hedge; or that we have done something wrong that God is angry about.

All that it means is that God is still “Good”! And it means that in His Divine Sovereignty where He has all Power; and in His Divine Omniscience where He

knows every detail of our Life and the Lives of those around us; and He knows our rising up and our sitting down- it means that in His Divine Goodness- that God has chosen to “work” that “terrible” thing together with all the other things that God has either *caused* or *allowed* to come into our Lives for the greater “Good” of the Glory of God and, *ultimately*, the Fulfillment of our Joy- as we are changed by those things from one Realm of Glory to another; and we are molded and shaped by those things into the Image and Likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ!

And that *progressive ongoing* Process is called Sanctification. And the Bible says that every single child of God, who has *already* experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; and who has *already* been Justified³; and who has *already* been adopted by the Father- is engaged in this Process until the Day he dies.

Now if the *main* Goal of God was to make us financially prosperous- then the false Teachers in the modern Church would be right; and Sanctification would indeed be counterproductive. And that would mean it would be something to *resist* rather than *yield* to. If the *main* Goal of God was to always heal our sick bodies- then those who teach that Healing is simply a matter of Faith would be right; and Sanctification would be terribly counterproductive. And that would mean that Sanctification would need to be overcome and not surrendered to. And if the *main* Goal of God in the Life of His Children was to cause us to be perfectly healthy and disease free- then Sanctification would be patently counterproductive to that Goal as well. And that would mean that we would need to “bind the devil”; and “plead the Blood”; and “rise up in Faith”; and “declare ourselves healed and blessed!”

But, dear friends, the Bible does NOT teach that those things are the Man Goal of God in the Life of His people. The Bible teaches that God’s main Goal in the Lives of His people is to receive Glory and Praise and Honor and Enjoyment and Devotion and Love and Worship from a people, who have been radically transformed by what He alone has done for them! And the Bible goes on to teach that these Strangers and Pilgrims; who seek for a City, whose Architect and Builder is God- will receive the fullness of their own Joy- in God alone being glorified!

But Sin stops that from happening. And so, in order to be glorified; and in order for people to obtain the very zenith of Happiness and Delight- God had to take on Flesh; live a sinless Life; die a vicarious Death; rise again on the third Day; and ascend into Heaven to sit at the “Right Hand” of the Majesty on High- so He could ever make Intercession for the people God has chosen to rescue from their Sin and His Wrath against their Sin!

³ “Justification” is where we respond to the new, spiritual Life and the new Nature that God has given us in the New Birth; and we repent of Sin and trust in Jesus and in His finished Work. So, Justification is the part of the “Order of Salvation” where ALL our Sins (Past, Present, and Future) have been forgiven and where God takes the spotless Righteousness of Jesus (that He earned by living a sinless Life) and He “imputes” or “credits” that Righteousness to us through the Agency of Faith alone.

But in order to do that- God had to sovereignly change you; and alter you; and interrupt all of the Plans you made for yourself; and transform you from one realm of Glory to another by His Spirit- so that we are molded and shaped and formed into the Image of our Lord Jesus Christ!

And that means that we do NOT come to the Cross- so that all of our Dreams and all of the Plans we have manufactured for ourselves can be fulfilled. No, we come to the Cross to die! Because the Cross of Jesus puts an End to all our selfish Dreams; and all our Self-centered Plans- and it enables and empowers us to cry out, “*Not my will but Yours be done!*”

At the Cross- Jesus Christ washes all of our Sins away and imputes His Own Righteousness to us. But He does that by buying and paying for us- so that we are “bought and paid for” Bond- slaves of the Lord Christ. So, it is at the Cross that Jesus purchases our Lives; and our Time; and our Bodies; and our Future; and our Ambition; and our Wills; and our very Souls! And it is at the Cross where we are *forcefully* taken out of the kingdom of satan and we are effectually brought into the Kingdom of Heaven as fully purchased Bond-slaves of this radical and costly Love of the Lord Jesus Christ!

And so the main Goal of God in the Lives of all the unworthy Sinners to whom God has distributed Mercy; and to whom He has saved by Grace through Faith- is that they become Holy rather than Healthy; that they be Faithful rather than financially Secure; that they be Busy in the Work of the Lord rather than Building their own kingdoms; and that they be Kind and Merciful and Longsuffering and Giving and Caring and Loving people even as their Lord. And that is the Process called Sanctification.

And since us putting on those Heavenly and God- honoring Attributes is the main Goal of God in the Lives of every believer- God allowing Suffering; Pain; Disappointments; Trials; Persecution; Sickness; and Trouble to come into their Lives serves to accomplish that- even if all of that mostly goes *against* our own selfish Desires.

So, in His great Love for us- I say in His Goodness to His children- God does not listen to our Complaining. And He *ignores* our Murmuring. And He *disregards* our Bellyaching. And because God knows us- He did NOT design Sanctification as a “volunteer Program”. Instead, in His Mercy- God *imposes* on us- things we would NEVER ask for or want in a million years! But why? Why doesn’t God simply give us ice cream; and cake; and laughter; and comfort; and ease in this Life? Because those things will NEVER transform us into His Image and two things will NOT happen:

1. We will NOT glorify God
2. We will NOT achieve the Fullness of our own Joy

... which are the two things God is *determined* to accomplish.

And that is what is going on in the Life of EVERY saint of God on this Planet. Because, before the Foundation of the World- God the Father chose to rescue us from His Wrath and a wasted Life; and He *consciously* and *purposefully* “set His Love” upon us so that we will celebrate His Goodness forever- in *unspeakable* Delight! The Church of Jesus represents those whom God was NOT content to leave alone. So, He troubled them; and convicted them; and dragged them to Jesus. And Jesus saw us in our Filth as being Gifts from His Father- whom He loves with a Love that we cannot even fathom. And so, Jesus received us and embraced us and washed us and forgave us and made us “fit for Heaven”! And He set us on the Path we are now walking on- the straight and narrow Path- that few will ever find- that will allow us the unbelievable Privilege...

.... so that we may share His holiness. (Hebrews 12:10b)

So, the Bible teaches that God, in all three Person, doesn't *save* us and then leaves us alone. He also *sanctifies* us. So, that we might be able to share in the very Holiness of God Himself!

But- during the earthly Ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ; and during the Formulation of the Church by the Apostles; and during the Days when the Church was receiving the final; full; and completed Revelation of God that eventually became the New Testament- Miracles; and Healings; and supernatural Signs and Wonders; and Gifts of the Holy Spirit were demonstrated by Jesus here in His earthly Ministry and by the Apostles during the development of the NT.

And that was done to bring “Divine Credibility” to them so that we could know that God was in them; so that we could trust and we could have confidence that what these men said and wrote down was True and Reliable and Trustworthy and Infallible and Authoritative and Sufficient and that it is truly God's Will and God's Word.

So, the Miracles that are recorded in the Bible were manifested for a very *narrow*; and very *specific*; and very *precise* Purpose- to give Divine Credibility on what Jesus and the Apostles and what the OT Prophets said and did and wrote down. And that is why these Miracles were not wholesale; and why everyone who was sick did not get healed; and why everyone who was being oppressed was not delivered; and why everyone who needed a Miracle didn't get one.

Miracles and Healings and supernatural Manifestations have ALWAYS been very *rare* and very *uncommon*- which is one reason they are so notable. For example- outside of Creation itself- which was a series of unrepeatable,

supernatural Miracles- there are very few Miracles or Healings recorded over the almost 4,000 years of human existence covered in the 39 Books of the OT.

Perhaps the greatest Explosion of Miracles in the OT occurred during the Ministry of Elijah and Elisha. And yet, in spite of the powerful earthshaking Manifestation of God's Power through these men- let's see what Jesus said about this in **Luke 4:25-27**:

25 But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land;

26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

Jesus said here that when God shut up the Heavens for 3-1/2 years and sent no rain upon the earth during Elijah's Ministry- that it was God's Will to show Mercy to one widow woman. And God chose to perform Miracles for that one widow- so that she and her sons would live. And so, God sovereignly chose for this one widow woman to remain faithful- because of the Miracle that God graciously gave her- and to this day- God is honored and praised for that.

But what happened to all the other widows in Israel during the 3-1/2 year drought? The Holy Bible says that it was *not* God's Will to show Mercy to those other widows and give them a Miracle. And so, God sovereignly chose for those other widows to glorify God by remaining faithful *in* the Famine; and by remaining faithful *in* the Drought; and by remaining faithful as they starved to death- and were *not* delivered.

Now are we to assume that the one widow woman was more *worthy* or more deserving than the others or that she had more Faith? Not at all. None of those widows deserved a Miracle; none were *entitled* to receive a Miracle from God; and none of these widows had *earned* a Miracle from God. God continued to be absolutely Sovereign and show Mercy to whom He would show Mercy. And God expects us to know this- because it is recorded for us in the Bible. And God expects us to marvel and wonder after Him because of this; and fear and tremble and praise His Holy Name because of this; and to pay close attention to what this God says!

And then Jesus said that there were *many* lepers in Israel during the Ministry of Elisha- but it was God's Will to show Mercy to only one man- Naaman. And

God chose Naaman to bring honor and glory to God *because* of the Healing that he received. And to this day- God is honored and glorified because of this.

But what about all the other lepers in Israel during that time? What are we to think about them? Were they *less* valuable than Naaman? Were they *less* worthy of healing? No- not a single leper *deserved* healing- not even Naaman. So, what we are to think- based on God's Word- is that in His Omnipotent Sovereignty- God chose *not* to heal all the other lepers in Israel; and God chose them to glorify Him by remaining faithful *IN* their Disease!

And so, whether we receive Mercy from God or not; whether we receive Miracles from God or not; whether we receive Healings from God or not- we all- as sons and daughters of the Lord Christ- have been called and chosen to remain faithful to the One Who lived and died and rose again to save our wretched souls!

And if God has sovereignly chosen to show us Mercy by healing us or delivering us or rescuing us - then we should praise God for that! But we should realize that it had nothing to do with our Performance; or how much Faith we had; or whether we deserved it- but simply that God had chosen to show us Mercy for no other reason than it pleased Him to do so!

And I would suggest to you that everything I just said is patently offensive to most people in the modern Church. And it is insulting to most people- even though everything I just said is clearly taught in the Holy Bible. But how could this be? How could it ever be that God's people would ever be offended or insulted with what is clearly taught in God's Word?

Well, the reason why- the Divine Truth that is in the Bible- is so insulting and offensive to most people in the modern Church is because these people do not know the Bible. And so, in that vacuum of their Ignorance- they have manufactured a "god" in their own mind- that doesn't exist. And they have assign this false god with certain Attributes that are not found in the Bible. And so, the inspired and infallible Truth about the one, true, and living God that, many times, does not fit in with their Man- made theology and their Man- made god- will be categorically rejected when those people are confronted with it! And this Rejection will happen- while they claim to believe that the Bible is God's Word!

So, the *primary* Focus of Matthew in the 28 Chapters of this inspired Book is to prove that Jesus is God Almighty in Human Flesh. And in the Jewish mentality of that Era- Matthew wanted his Jewish brethren to know that Jesus was a King- THE King!

But Matthew quotes Jesus as He discussed the "Kingdom of Heaven"- as opposed to the "Kingdom of Israel". And that was a *purposeful* Attempt by Matthew to inform his readers that with the Birth; Ministry; Death; Resurrection; and Ascension of Jesus- God's Focus is no longer on the geographical Nation of Israel; nor with the *exclusivity* of the Jewish people. God's primary Focus in the

New Covenant- is on the “*Church*”- the world-wide Kingdom that Jesus has inaugurated- that will be inhabited with people...

... from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (The Revelation 5:9b)

So, from the very Beginning- Matthew is showing us that Jesus is the King over all other kings. So, Matthew has told us about Jesus’ “Ancestry”; He has the lineage of a King. He has told us about His “Arrival”; Jesus had the Birth of a King, a virgin-born Son. He told us about His “Adoration”; where other kings bowed to Him and gave Gifts. He told us about His “Anticipation”; the Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in His Birth. He told us about His royal Herald, His “Announcer”- John the Baptist.

And Matthew told us about His “Affirmation”, where the Father spoke audibly at Jesus’ Baptism. He told us about His “Advantage” when He conquered Satan in Temptation. He told us about His “Activity” of Healing and Preaching. He told us about His “Authority” in His Sermon in chapters 5 through 7.

And now Matthew is telling us about Jesus’ “Authentication”- His Divine Power- to produce earthshaking Miracles- just like God. And so, all through chapters 8 and 9, we see the astounding Miracles of Jesus. And in these two chapters- Matthew gives us three different Groups of three Miracles each.

For example, in chapter 8, we see the first Group of Miracles dealt with “Disease”. From chapter 8, verse 23 to chapter 9, verse 1, the second Group dealt with mental as well as spiritual “Disorder”, in the physical and spiritual and moral Worlds. And now the third Group, and the one we’re going to be looking at in days ahead, deals with “Death”. Disease, Disorder, and Death. And this is the Pinnacle. Jesus can raise the Dead! So, even the Enemy of all Humanity- Death- CANNOT defeat Jesus!

So, if you were to follow just the thinking of Matthew, you would see what a tremendously important thing this is for Matthew to indicate. And going back to **Matthew 4:23&24**, the Apostle wrote,

23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

Then if you follow Matthew a little further, you come to the eighth chapter, and some of you will remember in **Matthew 8:16&17**, it says,

**16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.
17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:" HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."**

So, Jesus was healing and casting out demons and raising the Dead. But if you pay close attention- you will see that our Lord did NOT heal those people simply to help them become well again. Now how do I know that? Because they all got sick again and they all died. Everybody that Jesus or the Apostles healed all got sick again and they all died. NONE of them are alive today. So, we have to explain that.

If "physical Healing" is *always* God's Will; and if all that it takes to be healed is Faith- then why are there not people alive today who lived back then? You CANNOT answer this Question by saying, "*Well, they simply didn't believe*"- because SOMEBODY believed! Somebody had Faith! Every single one of those people, who were saved- they had enough Faith to be saved! And Salvation is a whole lot *harder* than healing. In fact, Salvation is *impossible!* Healing is NOT! And yet, people were saved.

So, if you are healed every time you get sick- why would you ever die? Death is caused by something- mostly a disease. But if people are healed every time they get sick- *why* did they die?

Sooner or later, if you are honest- you have to come to the Conclusion that it is NOT always God's Will for people to be healed- not even His own people! But, sometimes, it is god's Will that His people- live well; suffer well; and die well- to God's Glory!

So, when Jesus healed people- He was NOT healing them for their own sake only. No, when Jesus healed- He was demonstrating- incontrovertibly- that He was God in the Flesh. And so, Jesus did NOT heal all of them because they all had great Faith, either- not by any stretch of the imagination. He also did NOT heal all of them because they were all worthy.

Jesus healed all of them in order that He might show that He had the Divine Authority to heal all Disease and that, as God, there was absolutely NO Limit to His Capacity! And that is what Matthew wanted his readers to know- that Jesus is the King!

The English Mathematician, GB Hardy (7February 1877-1December 1947), once said,

“When I look at religion, I have two questions. One: has anybody ever conquered death? Two: if they did, did they make a way for me to conquer death?” So, I checked the tomb of Buddha, and it was occupied. I checked the tomb of Confucius, and it was occupied. I checked the tomb of Mohammed, and it was occupied. And I came to the tomb of Jesus, and it was empty. And I said, 'There is One who conquered death.' And I asked the second question, 'Did He make a way for me to do it?' And I opened the Bible and discovered that He said, 'Because I live you shall live also.’⁴

Amen. Let’s pray.

© 2021-2024 by *Delighting in God Ministries, Inc.* All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

Delighting in God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net
Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single Transcript in a larger series of Sermons of a verse- by- verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this Transcript without the express written permission of *Delighting in God Ministries, Inc.* and that this complete Copyright Statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

⁴ https://www.reddit.com/Christianity/comments/xnvjpe/g_b_hardy_the_canadian_scientist_when_i_look_at/?rdt=52480