

“Flying Closer to The Flame: Experiencing God Through Healing” * Part 1

July 29, 2007 * Luke 5:17-26

I. *Personal stories of unexpected or unexplained healing – can you think of one?*

II. *Luke 5: Jesus healing the paralytic*

A. *First lesson: in the Bible healing is never confined solely to **physical** healing.*

B. *“God is my Healer/Deliverer” meant what to the ancient Hebrew?*

When the ancient Israelite wanted to say, “The Lord is my healer” he could use the words “Jehovah Rapha” which literally meant, “The Lord, my healer” or he could use the ancient Hebrew word ‘Jehovah Yeshua’. God is my Yeshua. This word was very broad. It meant God is my salvation. God is my liberator. My deliverer. My victory. My security. My prosperity. My welfare. My health.

C. *When the Hebrew said “Shalom” to another Jew, what was he wishing him or her?*

You were not just wishing your neighbor good morning, but you were wishing him peace, health, prosperity, rest, safety, wholeness. It just took too long to say all that so they condensed it down into one word – shalom.

III. *“My friend, your sins are forgiven.”*

A. *What was Jesus doing here? Was he just teasing the paralytic, or toying with him?*

It was the most loving thing Jesus could have said to him, and the most loving thing Jesus offered him. He spoke to the area of greatest healing that this man needed – the forgiveness of his sins. The healing of his sinful heart, and the separation that existed between him and God. What good is it to have a young, healthy

body and a diseased soul? Anybody want to trade places with Lindsay Lohan right now?

B. *Jesus came to “save” us. What does that mean?*

Jesus tells us that he came to “seek and to save the lost”. That word “save” comes from the Greek word *sozo* and like the Hebrew word *Yeshua*, *sozo* is very broad. It means to heal, to preserve, to make whole. Jesus wants to save you from your sins, but in so doing, wants to save you from all the evil which sin produces – addiction, depression, strife, poverty, sickness, famine, political oppression, injustice.

C. *Are there areas in my life where I am “unhealthy” today (and not referring to my body)?*

IV. *The Purpose For Jesus’ Healings*

A. *Why did Jesus perform healings?*

1. *They were **proof** that he was the Messiah.*

2. *They were **signs** of the blessings that await us in God’s kingdom.*

B. *What special word does the Bible use to describe Jesus’ healings and miracles?*

signs

V. *Jesus’ healings were proof that he was the Messiah.*

A. *What did Isaiah foretell?*

The prophet Isaiah foretold seven hundred years before Jesus was born that when the Messiah came, one of his calling cards would be dramatic acts of healing – and Isaiah even went so far as to tell us what types of healings would be performed. Isaiah 35:4-6 – “Your God will come...to save you.’ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer and the mute tongue shout for joy.”

B. When Jesus began his public ministry, what did he do?
In Isaiah 61:1-2, Isaiah wrote these words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, words believed to be another prophecy of what the Messiah would do. “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” When Jesus began his public ministry, he was in his hometown, and he quoted this passage directly from Isaiah

C. How did Jesus prove that he was the Messiah?
By doing the very miracles which Isaiah foretold he would.

D. What was the main reason Jesus healed the paralytic in Luke 5?
It was not just a random act of kindness. It was a sign. It had a point to it. He did it to prove that as the Messiah, he had the authority to forgive sins. Much was at stake here. The Pharisees were skulking about. “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy?” Okay, Jesus said. “Which is easier? To say, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to tell him ‘Get up and walk’? Well, this question put the Pharisees between a rock and a hard place. How do you answer that question? They are two seemingly impossible things. So if Jesus can do one, he can surely do the other. And so Jesus heals the man, as a sign, authenticating that he is the Messiah.

VI. Jesus’ healings were foreshadowings of the blessings that await us in God’s kingdom.

A. How does the book of Revelation describe the new earth earth of the Messianic kingdom?
Revelation 21:4 tells us that you and I are going to stand on a new earth and we are going to see God with our eyes, and you know what God will do then. “He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.” And in that glorious kingdom of God, Revelation goes on to say that the tree of life will be in full bloom, yielding its fruit every month. Revelation

22:2 says “the leaves of that tree are for the healing of the nations.”

B. Is our healing ever complete in this life?
No.

C. When will it be?
When we see Jesus face to face.