

“Jesus: Our Healer”
June 13, 2010 * Luke 4:14-19, 38-41

I. *What three things are we doing as part of our Journey ministry:*

- A. *I'll be studying key _____ of the faith*
- B. *I'll develop the habit of daily _____
If doing this daily seems difficult, what should I remind myself of?*
- C. *I'll do the Journey with a _____.*

II. *Our short study in Luke – we'll examine how Jesus revealed himself to his followers*

- A. *Did people figure out who Jesus was right away?*
- B. *Why is this usually God's approach with us?*

III. *Jesus' First Gift of Love To Humanity: He Heals Us
What lessons are taught by Jesus' healing ministry?*

**Lesson #1: Jesus' Healings Were His _____
That He Was God's Messiah.**

- A. *After his baptism, what did God do next with Jesus?*
- B. *Why?*
- C. *Jesus entered the wilderness 'full of the Spirit'. How did He come out?*
- D. *What did Isaiah say the Messiah would do when he appeared?*
- E. *Why is this important for us?*

**Lesson #2 – Jesus' Healings Show Us The _____
_____ Of God Toward You And Me**

- A. *What is leprosy and how were lepers treated back in Jesus' time?*
- B. *What is arguably the most profound thing that Jesus does for this leper?*
- C. *'But how can you say that God cares for us in the same way today! I don't see these types of healings today! And we certainly don't see Jesus!'
What can be said to this?*

**Lesson #3 – Jesus' Healings Point Toward What Is _____
_____ When Christ _____**

- A. *And what is coming?*
- B. *Until then, what are we to do?*
 - 1. *Like Jesus, we are to minister to the _____ and _____.*
 - 2. *Recognize that on this side of heaven, no one will enjoy _____ health.*
 - 3. *Remember that when we talk about healing, the greatest type of healing anyone needs is _____ healing.*

“Jesus: Our Healer”
June 13, 2010 * Luke 4:14-19, 38-41

I. What three things are we doing as part of our Journey ministry:

A. I'll be studying key doctrines of the faith

B. I'll develop the habit of daily Bible reading.

If doing this daily seems difficult, what should I remind myself of?

That I'm not just reading a book, but I'm spending time with its author, Jesus.

C. I'll do the Journey with a small group.

II. Our short study in Luke – we'll examine how Jesus revealed himself to his followers

A. Did people figure out who Jesus was right away?

What you'll begin to see as you read Luke is that it took people awhile to figure out who this Jesus was. And Jesus did not go out of his way to speed up the process. In fact, you'll read several times early on in Luke how Jesus does something special for a person, and then turns around and says, “Now don't tell anyone about this.”

B. Why is this usually God's approach with us?

Usually God's approach is to woo us, to court us, to stand at the windows to our hearts and sing his love over to us, so that faith and love begin to awaken in us. He wants our love for him to be real, and to be offered freely. This idea in some circles of Islam that you can actually force someone to follow Allah is so contrary to God's heart. “Confess Mohammed, or die!” That's absolutely absurd. It's contrary to common sense. You can't force someone to believe a certain way. In fact, this is so against God's heart that rather than his followers killing unbelievers to make them believe in Jesus, God would rather his followers die at the hands of unbelievers while giving loving testimony to Jesus than anyone else be harmed.

III. Jesus' First Gift of Love To Humanity: He Heals Us
What lessons are taught by Jesus' healing ministry?

Lesson #1: Jesus' Healings Were His Calling Card That He Was God's Messiah.

A. *After his baptism, what did God do next with Jesus?*

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” How odd. It seems counter-intuitive to us. Why would God let all the air go out of the tires? All the momentum gained at Jesus' baptism is lost when he just disappears for the next month and a half.

B. *Why?*

Jesus is to be tested and tried by Evil Incarnate. These forty days are Jesus' final preparations for battle. Tests and trials are really a critical component of any child of God's spiritual growth. God needs to know, and we need to know, what we are made of. And should we pass the test, as God does, we emerge from the wilderness stronger than we ever were before.

C. *Jesus entered the wilderness ‘full of the Spirit’. How did He come out?*

“In the power of the Spirit.”

D. *What did Isaiah say the Messiah would do when he appeared?*

Isaiah 61:1 – “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

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.”

E. *Why is this important for us?*

The Messiah would come with healing as his calling card, Isaiah said. Look for the one who, among other things, would cause the blind to see.

Why is this important for us, the healings which Jesus did? For the same reason it was important for those who saw it. It grabs us by the cheek and forces us to look at this one called Jesus and to ask ourselves, “Who is this?” A few of the Old Testament prophets did some occasional miracles. But nothing like this. Not one of the other great religious leaders in history were purported to have done miracles of any sort. Not Buddah, not Confuscious, not Mohammed. They were each depicted as very human. But not Jesus. The record is clear about him. And it’s not just the gospel writers who claim these things. Even the secular Roman historian Josephus heard of the reputation of Jesus of Nazareth and wrote of him, and the healings he had performed. And this power which Jesus showed corners us and confronts us and demands a response from us. What are you going to do with this man?

Lesson #2 – Jesus’ Healings Show Us The Loving Heart Of God Toward You And Me

A. *What is leprosy and how were lepers treated back in Jesus’ time?*

Leprosy was, and is, an awful, wretched disease. And it was feared with as much dread as the bubonic plague, or as AIDS was when it first came on the scene. The infection of leprosy, or Hansen's disease as it's called today, enters into the blood through open wounds by skin contact or nasal discharges like a sneeze. Ulcers and sores appear on the body, and gradually the nerve endings in the infected areas are destroyed. The victim actually stops feeling pain. What a blessing! you'd think. Far from it. The ability to feel pain is really a remarkable gift God has given us. The sensation of pain, actually protects us. It alerts us to things that will do damage to our bodies.

B. *What is arguably the most profound thing that Jesus does for this leper?*

That he ‘touched’ him while healing him – this man who probably hadn’t been touched in years because he was a pariah and an outcast.

C. *‘But how can you say that God cares for us in the same way today! I don’t see these types of healings today! And we certainly don’t see Jesus!’
What can be said to this?*

But he is here today. Jesus said, “I will be with you always till the end of the age,” and those words weren’t a legal fiction. Jesus meant them. Until Jesus returns physically and visibly to fully usher in his kingdom on the earth – a day which is coming, and more and more signs are pointing to it even as we speak – but until that time he has sent his actual, living Spirit into the hearts of those who receive him and are his followers. The Holy Spirit is quite literally Christ in us.

Lesson #3 – Jesus’ Healings Point Toward What Is Coming When Christ Returns

A. *And what is coming?*

When the redemption of man is complete, after that day of Jesus' return when every knee will bow before him, pain, sickness and death will be banished from the human experience once again. Rev. 21:4 - *"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

B. *Until then, what are we to do?*

1. Like Jesus, we are to minister to the sick and dying.
2. Recognize that on this side of heaven, no one will enjoy perfect health.
3. Remember that when we talk about healing, the greatest type of healing anyone needs is spiritual healing.