

Lesson 2

HEALING – IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



Introduction

Our God has many wonderful names – these names reveal to us WHO God is and WHAT he is like. One of those names revealed in the Old Testament is, ‘The Lord (Jehovah) who heals you’. Let’s turn now to the New Testament and see what we can learn about healing.

1. THE LIFE OF JESUS

We have already seen how the prophecies in the Old Testament pointed forward to the coming of Jesus Christ – he is the Messiah, the one who was coming to bring redemption to all men and women. He came to show us what God is like.

(a.) Shows us the Father

One day Philip asked Jesus to show him what the Father is like. Jesus was surprised and he told Philip that if he had seen Jesus, then he had seen the Father.

John 14:8-9 *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

How did Jesus show us what the Father was like? Can anyone give suggestions? Let’s look at some verses.

Matthew 8:16 *‘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.’*

Acts 10:38 *‘how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.’*

Jesus not only showed us what the Father is like by what he did, but he revealed the heart of God to us.

Matthew 20:33-34 *“Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.” Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.*

Mark 1:40-42 *A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.*

Luke 7:12-13 *As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”*

When Jesus came he showed us what God is like by what he did – but not only that, he revealed to us the heart of our Heavenly Father. His heart goes out to those in need.

(b.) Shows us the Kingdom

Not only did Jesus reveal what the Father is like, but he demonstrated what the Kingdom of heaven is like. When you read through the gospels you will find that preaching the good news of the Kingdom is always linked to the power of the Kingdom.

Matthew 4:23 *'Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.'*

Matthew 10:7-8 *'As you go, preach this message; "The Kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons."*

We are to long for God's Kingdom to come on earth! This is what we pray every time we say the Lord's prayer.

Matthew 6:10 *"Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

What is God's Kingdom like? What is heaven like? A place where there is no pain, or suffering, or sickness or death. Jesus came to show us what his Father's Kingdom is like by healing the sick and casting out demons. Jesus has not changed – he wants his Body, you and me to do the same today. When people see that demonstration of God's love and power their hearts are open to the gospel. This is what happened when Philip went to Samaria.

Acts 8:6 *'When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.'*

Acts 8:12 *'But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised.'*

(c.) Glorifies God

Whatever Jesus did he brought glory to his Heavenly Father.

Luke 5:25-26 *'Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today.'*

John 11:4, 40 *'When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"'*

When Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead it brought glory to his Father. This was Jesus' desire, and it should be ours too.

2. THE EARLY CHURCH

It must have been wonderful for the disciples to see Jesus healing the sick, but it wasn't long before he told them to also go and heal the sick. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Let's read Mark 10:6-8.

Mark 10:6-8 *"Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."*

When Jesus was about to leave this earth he once again told them to 'go' and heal the sick.

Mark 16:15, 17-18 *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

"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."

Conclusion

When we read the book of Acts we see that this is what the disciples did – they went out and preached the good news, and healed the sick, using the name of Jesus. Although they saw miracles take place and people coming to know Jesus Christ, they prayed for greater boldness to preach the gospel and that God would continue to work miracles among them. This prayer was answered! The building where they met shook and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit once again. God wants to use us too. Not just the early believers! Let's pray the same prayer that these first Christians prayed.

"Now, Lord ... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

(Acts 4:29-30)