

Lesson 3

HEALING – GOD’S PROVISION



Introduction

No-one likes to be sick! When the Apostle John wrote to his friend in 3 John 2 he says, *“I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”* We know that God wants our soul to be well – but he also wants our bodies to be well.

- One of his names means, “I am the Lord who heals”
- Jesus came to show us what God is like, and he was moved with compassion at man’s needs and healed all who came to him.

So does God send sickness? It’s important that we know where sickness comes from, so we can stand against it with confidence.

1. SOURCE OF SICKNESS: SATAN

When God created the world, he described it as very good – there was no sickness or pain. However when Adam and Eve listened to the voice of Satan and obeyed him, pain and sickness entered. This was part of the curse that came upon man as a result of sin. Where does sickness come from then? Who is the source? Let’s look at some verses.

John 10:10 *Jesus said, “The thief comes only to kill, steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Acts 10:38 *‘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 saw sickness as an affliction from the devil. One day he healed a woman who was crippled and bent over on the Sabbath Day. The religious leaders were not happy, and this is what Jesus said:

Luke 13:16 *“Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for 18 long years, be set free on the Sabbath.”*

Clearly we can see that Satan is the source of sickness, not God. God is the source of all that is perfect, holy and good. Sickness has entered into our world because man has disobeyed God.

2. SIN OPENS THE DOOR TO SICKNESS

Let’s look at some examples. In Numbers 16 we read of how Korah, one of the tribes of Israel had rebelled against God by opposing Moses and Aaron. A plague spread among the people as a result and many died, until Moses made atonement for them and the plague stopped. (Numbers 16:41-50)

There are many examples in the life of Jesus where he leaded people and told them to go and sin no more. Remember the paralyzed man who was let down through the roof by his friends. Jesus told him that his sin was forgiven. It would seem that in his case, his sickness was directly linked to sin in his life.

Then in the Book of Revelation we read of a woman in the church at Thyatira who was living in sin and encouraging others to do so. Jesus warned her that if she did not repent she would be struck down with suffering. God was gracious to her, to warn her of the consequence of her sin. (Revelation 2:20-23)

3. GOD'S PROVISION FOR SIN AND SICKNESS

God has made a wonderful provision for us through the death of his Son on the cross. We have already seen the prophecy in Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:4-5 *'He was pierced for our transgressions ... by his wounds we are healed.'*

How can we receive healing? The Word of God shows us there are provisions that he has made for believers.

(a.) The Lord's Supper or Communion

The first provision is the Lord's Supper or the Holy Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

We know that when we take the Lord's Supper we are remembering the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and that he died so we can receive forgiveness of our sin. Before we take the Lord's Supper it is important that we confess any sin in our life. Then as we take the bread and the cup, we thank him for paying the price for our sin and receive his forgiveness. However the Apostle Paul is also saying that we can receive healing.

1 Corinthians 11:30 *'That is why many among you are weak and sick and a number of you have fallen asleep.'*

You see if we do not understand that when Jesus was beaten, he was taking the punishment for our sin in his body, so that we could be forgiven and healed of the consequences of our sin. 'By his wounds you are healed.'

(b.) Laying on of Hands

When we take communion we are coming to the Lord by faith to receive for ourselves. However there are times we struggle with sickness and so God made another provision for believers.

James 5:14-16 *'Is there any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other so that you may be healed.'*

Notice that James says, "If he has sinned - confess your sins." Sometimes a person is suffering sickness as a direct result of their own sin, and they need to repent first. At other times there may be some other sin in their lives that hinders God answering their prayer. God has given this provision for his people – we can go to the leaders/elders of the church and ask them to anoint us with oil and pray in the name of the Lord for our healing.

We can see that sin opens the door to the enemy, and the enemy comes in to destroy. When we are sick, God has given us provision, so we can receive the benefits of his covenant with us, and that benefit is that we can be healed in the name of Jesus. When we take the Lord's Supper we can receive healing by faith, or we can ask our Church leaders to anoint us and pray for our healing.

4. OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS

We know that sickness entered the world because of sin, and we have all sinner. However sickness is not always a direct result of a person's own sin. There are many people who have suffered greatly who are no different to us. So why are they sick? Let's look at a few examples from the Bible.

(a.) Story of the man born blind

Remember the story of the blind man who was healed in John 9? The disciples asked Jesus if this man had been born blind because he sinned, or his parents had. At that time the Jewish people believed this happened as a result of a person's own sin. Jesus replied and said, *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."* This man was born blind but it was no-one's fault. Sickness has entered our world because we live in a sinful world, but Jesus came to bring deliverance and healing. When the blind man was healed, the religious leaders were upset and questioned him.

John 9:11 *"The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."*

As a result of this healing the man believed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and he worshiped him. All over the world healings and miracles are taking place. As a result the works of God are being displayed and people understand that God loves them. Many are believing in Jesus because of what they have seen him do. This is who our God is – the God who heals.

(b.) Story of Job

Let's look at another story – the life of Job. Job was a Godly man who feared the Lord. The enemy accused Job of only loving God because of the blessings he received. God allowed Satan to attack Job, and as a result he lost everything and was afflicted with painful sores. His wife told him to curse God and his friends said he must have sinned.

Job 11:14-15 *Zophar said, "If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then you will lift up your face without shame, you will stand firm and without fear."*

Although his friends said this, Job knew that it was not true. And he was right. God himself said to Satan that Job was righteous. So why was he suffering? This is a question many struggle with. However at the end of the book of Job God revealed himself to Job, and he understood how great God is and there are some things too wonderful to know. After this Job was healed and God restored what he had lost.

Conclusion

Sickness is in the world as a result of the fall of man. At times sin in a person's life has opened the door to sickness, but it is not always the case. We need to be careful not to blame a person when they are sick, as many times we don't know why they are. We do know though that God has made a provision for us to be healed through the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!