

OPEN

John 4:43-54 Amplified Bible (AMP) - Not the same story as the healing of the Centurions Son

46 As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. **47** When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

48 Jesus asked, "Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?"

49 The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies."

50 Then Jesus told him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

51 While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. **52** He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, "Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock his fever suddenly disappeared!" **53** Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. **54** This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

This morning we are going to talk about healing. It's a big topic. One that can easily challenge us.

So often it's normal for us Christians to not have an appetite for the impossible. Yet so much of the Gospels, our central text about Christ, reveals miracle after miracle. Healings, deliverances, provision, walking on water.

Yet today, its almost as if something is missing. And I want to challenge our mindsets this morning. Because signs and wonders aren't the norm for us. They are the occasional occurrence.

And when we do a series like this, or talk on a topic like healing, we can sub-consciously listen to it through filter, perhaps a filter of a past experience, or a filter of a theological viewpoint. Lets ask the Holy Spirit to give us fresh ears to hear what he wants to say to us this morning.

When we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to God's promptings, when we dare to believe in the impossible, we will see breakthrough!

- **Healing is part of our mandate as Christ followers**

- *Matthew 10:8, Jesus commands his disciples "[To] heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, [and] cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."*
- *Look at John 14:12-14, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father...If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*
- *Mark 16:18b They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."*

Healing flies in the face of reason and understanding. And sometimes our cognitive, rational mindsets, can almost place 'faith talk' as something above us. That we don't get.

This is the picture of the Space X Falcon Heavy

The worlds most powerful rocket to date.

Recently, Elon Musks brainchild, the Falcon Heavy launched into space, carrying Elon's tesla roadster which is now heading towards Mars.

- **payload capacity of 64 tons**
- **2.2 million KG's of thrust**
- **The boosters are able to land onto GPS co-ordinates back onto the earths surface**

This is quite impressive!

- **Do I understand how this technology works?** No, of course not. Were there doubters, of course! **Did my unbelief stop it from happening?** No, it happened.
- **Just because we don't understand God** and how he works, should that stop Him from moving? no!
- I know many of us may have had hard experiences in which we haven't seen people healed, **but If you have stop believing in healing**, you have stopped believing in a significant portion of the Gospel.

BODY

So are we ready for God to speak to us this morning/evening

So let's look at a few things in this text...

1) HEALING CONFRONTS THE HEART

The Nobleman comes asking God to heal his son. Jesus responds saying:

Vs 47-48 - Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe

- **What's he saying here?** It's not all about the miracle, that's not the main thing.

People at the time were driven by signs and wonders. It was a case of people seeking out a sign above knowing Jesus. People were more interesting in the signs and wonders than in the Word. Remember that Jesus was the Word. The Word became flesh. He was the face the God, yet people were chasing after the signs.

Jesus is saying: Hey hang on a minute, why must you see my works in order to believe?

Jesus discerned the man's intent.

- Jesus isn't afraid to challenge the doubt in this man. In fact Jesus first shows him his sin and weakness to prepare his heart, and then grants his request.
- Its like he's saying: Why are you really here? **WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR YOU TO BELIEVE?**
- **The first question for us, is do we know Christ, do we desire him? Do we have a relationship with him. Maybe this morning you haven't committed your life to him.**

- Or maybe you're so sidetracked by the need for healing that you've forgotten about the King, and Jesus, and his heart of compassion for you, his desire to know you.

Healing confronts our hearts. It says what do we truly desire. There have been times when my heart has been hard, but when I allow God time and space to move in my heart, he comes and prods away at it and creates a soft heart in me again.

2) AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS IGNITES OUR FAITH FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

Vs 49-50 - The man responds to Jesus' challenge in an instant. Jesus rebuke changes the mans mind. He instantly believes.

'The man believed what Jesus said to him and started home'

- **What's interesting here**, is that he sees no miracle, and yet believes that his son is healed.

Get this: This guy believed in the omnipresence of Christ, Even though Christ was in front of him in the flesh, he had faith that his son had been healed.

He saw and acknowledged the authority and power of Christ

Why do think Jesus walked in such power and authority? (*Besides that fact that he was fully God*)

- He had a committed relationship with his Father
- He constant walked in the power of the Holy Spirit
- He has an uncompromising prayer life

STORY: This is such a good foundation for us. Iron man entrants only make it through because they have trained for months and months.

- **Sometimes we try and pray without the foundation of the relationship.**
- **It's like we try and lift a 50 kg dumbbell without training at all!**

An encounter with Jesus changes us, transforms our thinking, renews our minds! Stirs us into faith. Daily encounters with God will transform us daily!

3) THE SONS HEALING RESULTED IN THE FAITH OF A FAMILY

53 *Then the father realised that that was the very time Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus.*

I find it so beautiful that a personal healing in one person's life, can result in a family coming to know Christ.

Never play down a work which God is doing in your life. Share it, tell people, testify, For it will lead others to faith.

A healing from God never ends there. It's never only about the healing. It reveals his Kingdom on earth. And through it, he is glorified. We are encouraged, people come to faith!

- I remember healings taking place in our youth ministry back in PE, and people came to know Christ through that!

2ND PART

**With this text as a foundation, I want to deal with the questions of why and how.
Why am I sick and How am I healed?**

It's interesting that forgiveness and healing are found con-currently in the same passage more than once in the Bible. Look at these scriptures with me:

Psalm 103:2-3

*2 Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
3 who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,*

Look at verse 3. We don't battle with the first half of verse 3 right, but why is the second half so much harder to believe.

Isaiah 53:5

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

WHY AM I STILL SICK? WHY WEREN'T THEY HEALED?

● **DIAGRAM (I must attribute this teaching to Robert Morris)**

When Jesus bore our sin on the cross there are 3 aspects of our sin.

PENALTY, POWER and PRESENCE of our sin.

- Jesus bore the penalty of your sin. We have been saved from the penalty of sin. Agree?
- In Revelation, Jesus reveals himself to John and says: I was - I am - and I will be. God is all tense
- We are have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. Justification, Sanctification and Glorification

- **We have been saved from the penalty of our sin,**
- **One day we will be saved from the presence of sin.**
- **Right now we are being saved from the POWER of sin. Because sin is still PRESENT in the world, sometimes believers still fall under the power of sin. Makes sense?**

Now look at this:

- **Jesus also bore our sickness on the cross, but the POWER of sickness is still PRESENT in the world and so sometimes even as a believer, we still fall under the POWER of sickness.**

Our commission is to bring God's Kingdom on Earth, to see how that operates, to Pray for healing.
This answers the question: WHY? Because we still live in the presence of Evil in this world

- **Can I just say that God will never punish you for your sins because he already punished Jesus, because Jesus bore sickness on the cross for us**

HOW DO I RECEIVE HEALING?

- How did you receive forgiveness of sins? By grace through faith!
Eph 2:8-9 *for by grace you have been saved*
- Hear me: You are not saved by faith, you are saved by grace through faith.
- **How do you get healed? By grace through faith.** Health is a gift from God. Its primarily the grace of God that We get healed. Make Sense?

There's the belief that healing passed away after the book of Acts.

Salvation is a gift from God. Health is a gift from God.

Yes it's important to be healthy and eat healthily. But I've known people who have eaten healthily and have still gotten sick, and even died. **Health is a gift, by Gods grace.**

- **I want to challenge the misbelief that we didn't have enough faith.**

Sometimes people get this thinking from *Matthew 13:58*

And He did not do many miracles there [in Nazareth] because of their lack of faith - The more accurate word there is because of their 'unbelief'.

Either you believe or you don't believe. Either you have faith or you don't have faith. Tell me how it's possible to half believe. Either we doubt, or we believe. **We don't say, Im at 30 % faith today!**

There is no place to put guilt and condemnation on a person thats suffering!

- We are healed by grace through faith
- **In Luke 5 there is the story of a paralytic man who is healed by Jesus** In verse 23 Jesus asks this: **Which is easier? 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say 'Get up and walk'**
- **God wants to ask us a question this morning?** Which is easier? The answer is neither, but both are easier for God.

So as we wrestle with this challenging topic, may our hope and faith be refreshed in the truth that God is the healer, and we are commanded to pray for healing. And we will see healing!

CLOSE

I'd like to close to looking at a man who God used mightily around a century ago.

His name is **John G Lake**

Born in Canada, God sent him to Africa and he spent 5 years ministering in South Africa. Upon his return to the US, he set up a healing ministry in Washington state which resulted in 100 000 miracles taking place over about 6 years.

He's what he said about healing:

“When a Christian tries to live by reason he is moving out of Gods country into the enemies land. We belong in the miraculous and the supernatural realm”

‘Jesus did not heal the sick in order to coax them to be Christians. He healed because it was his nature to heal’

He’s what he said about his ministry:

"Hundreds, and hundreds of people were healed by the power of God during these ten years. But at the end of that ten years, I believe I was the hungriest man for God that ever lived. There was such a hunger for God that as I left my offices in Chicago, and walked down the street, my soul would break out, and I would cry, 'Oh God!' I have had people stop and look at me, and wonder. It was the yearning passion of my soul, asking for God in a greater measure than I knew. But my friends would say, 'Mr. Lake, you have a beautiful Baptism of the Holy Ghost.' Yes, it was nice as far as it went, but it was not answering the cry of my heart. I was growing up into a larger understanding of God, and my own soul's need. My soul was demanding a greater entrance into God, His love, Presence, and Power. And then one day an old man strolled into my office, sat down, and in the next half hour, he revealed more of the knowledge of God to my soul than I had ever known before. When he left I said, '... God, if that is what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with tongues does, I am going to possess it.' Oh the wonder of God, that was then revealed to my heart!

It all goes back to God, revelling in him, desiring him, seeking him. We don’t seek the healer over and above the healings.

Ministry

We’re going to respond by singing a song in worship, and while that happened.

● I have struggled with feet issues and asked God for healing many times, and I haven’t seen it in my body yet. Sometimes Im tempted to say Gods no’s for him, and not respond, but what do i have to lose. When i come forward and I seek him first, and his heart, im blessed. Im trusting and contending for healing, absolutely.

- 1) Can God heal you without coming up, Yes of course
- 2) We are going to open up the front to pray specifically for healing. We’re hyping up our faith, but we’re hungry for a touch from the Lord. And if we walk away being healed, we are blessed, equally, if we walt away not being physically healed, but being touched by the Lord and being blessed through prayer, we too are blessed.

Lets respond. Don’t say Gods no’s for him