

# Healing in the New Testament:

25% of the gospels talk about Jesus healing ministry... that's A-LOT!!!

Looked through loads of these stories and I think there are 3 important elements of Jesus' healing:

## **1. Jesus healing was about WHOLENESS. He was not just concerned about healing the body.**

iaomai = to cure, heal, make whole. (used 22 times)

sozo = to save, that is, deliver or protect (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole. (used 16 times of Jesus healing stories)

*Examples of other types of Healing:*

### **• Forgiveness of sins:**

*Luke 5:17-26* - 4 friends brought the man to Jesus

*Some people soon brought to him a crippled man lying on a mat. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the crippled man, "My friend, don't worry! Your sins are forgiven. (Matthew 9:2)*

Forgiveness and spiritual restoration came before the physical healing.

### **• Restored relationally/socially:**

Relationally broken (shame, guilt, hurt, separation, unforgiveness)

*As he was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward him. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Jesus looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." On their way they were healed. (Luke 17:12-14)*

The lepers were restored relationally & socially

### **• Deliverance from evil spirits: (Mark 5:1-17)**

My conviction is that there is a spiritual realm that also includes forces of evil. These are active in the world and can oppress and bind people. In Jesus ministry, he had a reputation of setting free people that were oppressed spiritually. It's not necessarily helpful to try and spot Demons, but it is helpful to pray for release when people are gripped with habits negative patterns of thought, mental and spiritual oppression that we pray for wholeness. CLOUD & OPPRESSION

*Then some people brought to Jesus a man who was blind and could not talk because he had a demon. Jesus healed the man, so that he was able to talk and see. (Matthew 12:22)*

*There in the Jewish meeting place was a man with an evil spirit. He yelled out, "Hey, Jesus of Nazareth, what do you want with us? Are you here to get rid of us? I know who you are! You are God's Holy One." Jesus ordered the evil spirit to be quiet and come out. The demon threw the man to the ground in front of everyone and left without harming him. (Luke 4:33-35)*

### **• Raising from the dead:**

*When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face. Jesus then told the people, "Untie him and let him go." (John 11:43-44)*

This is a rarity in church today, but God is always in the business of bringing that which is dead to life, and at its heart is bringing spiritually dead to a living relationship with God.

## **2. Faith is important in healing:**

- where is the location of faith?

- **Faith of the individual who is healed - NOTE sick person is NEVER told off for lack of faith**

This woman had been bleeding for 12 years. Had faith that Jesus was the messiah 'Healing in his wings'

*A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and barely touched his clothes. She had said to herself, "If I can just touch his clothes, I will get well." Jesus turned. He saw the woman and said, "Don't worry! You are now well because of your faith." At that moment she was healed. (Matthew 9:20-22)*

*As Jesus was walking along, two blind men began following him and shouting, "Son of David, have pity on us!" After Jesus had gone indoors, the two blind men came up to him. He asked them, "Do you believe I can make you well?" "Yes, Lord," they answered. Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, you will be healed." (Matthew 9:27-29)*

- **Faith of another or others**

*So Jesus answered her, "You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you." And at that very moment her daughter was healed. (Matthew 15:28)*

*And because the people did not have any faith, Jesus did not work many miracles there. (Matt 13:58)*

Throughout Jesus's ministry, he would encounter people who had loved ones, who were sick. They would come to Jesus, full of faith that Jesus could heal their relative or friend. Faith can be found in others.

- **Faith of the person praying**

*A man knelt in front of him and said, "Lord, have pity on my son! He has a bad case of epilepsy, and often falls into a fire or into water. I brought him to your disciples, but none of them could heal him". Later the disciples went to Jesus no private and asked him, "Why couldn't we force out the demon?" Jesus replied: It is because you don't have enough faith! But I can promise you this. If you had faith no larger than a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you. (Matthew 17:14-20)*

### **Healing involves FAITH:**

- Faith does not heal - God does, but its through faith that healing comes.
- Faith = "Believing in AND acting on the promises of God"
- FAITH means believing God can heal and then asking Him to heal.

### **3. Jesus also sent others out to do it!**

The 12, the 72 and then the great commission - for ALL his followers, that includes us! In fact throughout church history Christians have done the same, in Acts, then through history and until today.

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:14-16)*

### **Healing Today:**

STORY: This commission for us to do the same was made very real to me on a mission to Africa. Praying for the lady who was ill & demonised: *It is God who heals... He is concerned for wholeness - delivered the lady... He want US to do it!*

### **Conclusion: - 3 TRUTHS ABOUT HEALING**

1. **It is God who heals** - not the people praying, we can have confidence that the same God who healed in the past is the same yesterday, today & forever. HEB13:8
2. **Not everyone is healed instantly** - even in Jesus ministry not all were healed. (e.g. John 5:1-9 - pool of Bethesda).
3. **Faith** - How much faith - a stretch of the hand (woman who was bleeding), standing up (lame man), calling the elders (the church)

### **Questions & Reflection for LIFEgroups:**

- *What stands out to you about how Jesus healed others?*
- *What does that mean for you?*
- *Is there anyone in the group who needs prayer? (Pray for one another)*
- *Is there anyone you know who needs prayer for wholeness - pray for them*