

## **“Jesus is the difference” series**

Week 3: Jesus as our Healer

January 25, 2026

*Luke 8:40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. 41 Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. 43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. 45 “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.” 46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.” 47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.” 49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” 50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” 51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. 52 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.” 53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” 55 Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.*

### **Introduction**

- Did you know that US Public Health Service was created in 1912? The people in government wanted to encourage people to pursue better health because they believed a healthier society was better all around. But this is not new. People have been pursuing better health through all of recorded history. But, let’s be honest, they have not always done this well.
- Bloodletting was a cornerstone of ancient medicine – remove bad blood from the body to get rid of diseases and fevers. Sometimes people died because of anemia – the lack of blood.
- Romans believed that one of the best paths to white teeth was to soak them in urine.
- For centuries, doctors believed that drilling holes in your skull would release evil spirits or fix migraines
- It wasn’t until 1628 that they discovered that blood circulates and is not pooled and absorbed by tissue
- Vaccinations were discovered in 1796
- But not all modern medicine was good. Created in 1849, Mrs. Winslow’s Soothing Syrup claimed to calm young children, soothe their teething pain, relieve their constipation, clean their teeth, and more. By 1868, the company was shipping some 1.5 million bottles annually. Testing showed that one teaspoon of the 25-cent liquid delivered the equivalent of 10 times the then-recommended maximum amount of morphine for youngsters.
- In the late 1800’s people would climb into hole carved in carcass of whale for 20 hours as a cure for rheumatism
- Up until 1950’s, smoking was considered good for your health
- Discoveries in the 1920’s of both insulin and antibiotics increased quality and length of life.
- We could go on and on. People are constantly seeking the remedies for their ailments. No one likes to be sick. Whether it is the flu, a cold or cancer, we want to live without sickness.

- We are in a teaching series centered on Jesus. We are always teaching about Jesus, but since any life lived without Jesus at the center is a compromised life, we wanted to examine the Jesus-centered approach to our life and faith.
- In the C&MA, we have a way of describing this Jesus-centered approach to life by describing Jesus as our Savior, our Sanctifier, our healer and our Coming King (represented by our logo). Of course Jesus encompasses more than this, but we have been focusing on some of these key aspects of Jesus and how he is the one who makes all the difference in our lives.
- As our Savior, Jesus is the one who forgives and gives us new life. As our Sanctifier, Jesus is the one who changes us into the kind of people he has already declared us to be. Today, I want to examine what it means when we say that Jesus is our healer.
- One of the most visible results of sin in our world is sickness and death. And while we seem to talk about this more as we get older, it is true for people of every age.
- People get sick. People suffer. People die. All over the world. It is part of living on this planet. Yet the good news of Jesus is what he did not design it this and he is not indifferent to the suffering of his people.
- Maybe you are here this morning and you would really like to find healing. Maybe you pray for the healing of another. I am so glad you are here, because the good news is that Jesus is our healer. He is your healer and he is my healer. And this good news is better than we perhaps have ever considered.

## Main Sermon Text

- One of the most quoted verses about Jesus is a prophecy made about Jesus hundreds of years before he was born. The prophet Isaiah said this about Jesus:  
*"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 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."* (Isaiah 53:4-5)
- When Jesus came to earth to live and die and then be raised again on our behalf, it was not simply so we could spend eternity with him in heaven. It also was to bring healing to the suffering and sickness we have in this world.
- Jesus healed people when he was on earth in the flesh, he heals people today. Yet people still get sick and die. So when we see Jesus as healer, what should our expectation be?
- Do we pray for healing? Should we expect it? Can we demand it? Is it normal? Why does he allow it? Depending on how you grew up, these and other questions can bother us when it comes to this topic.
- To help us I want to look at an account of Jesus healing someone. We are going to be in Luke 8, one of my favorite sections in all of the gospels.
- There are two characters that we want to focus on. (read by Matt at the beginning)  
*41 Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.*
- We are introduced to Jairus. He was a synagogue leader. A man who had influence and power in the religious system of Israel. He had a 12 yr old daughter who was sick and dying. He realized there was nothing he could do, so he came and fell at Jesus feet to ask him to come to his house because he had heard that Jesus healed people.
- On the way to his house, we are introduced to a second person.  
*As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. 43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.*

- A woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years. Under the law of Moses, bleeding like she did made her unclean and she could not participate in religious activities. We don't catch the ramifications of this. Anyone who touched her would also be unclean, and since the whole life of the community revolved around this, it meant that this woman was an outcast. People would not want to be around her. So for over a decade, this woman had no human touch, no care, no identity, and no care or value. She was on the outside looking in.
- Luke is giving us a contrast between two people

Jairis, someone who is named 12 yr old daughter Ruler of synagogue He was known Respected Pleading for his daughter Wealthy Insider People wanted to know him	Someone who is unnamed 12 years of suffering Not allowed in the synagogue She was unknown Rejected No one to plead for her Penniless Outsider No one wanted to know her
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- Yet they shared one key trait – they needed Jesus the healer.
- The woman has also heard about Jesus. She comes up thinking that all she wants is that her malady is healed. She sneaks through a crowd that would reject her if they really knew she was there to grab the edge of his robe.
- When she does, she is instantly healed. She knows it. And what's more, Jesus knew it. He knew that God had used his power. So he stops everything. The procession. The crowd. He wants to know who touched him.
- Why? My friends, this is so important. It wasn't that he did not know. He wanted her to make herself known to him. Because he knew that her physical healing was only a part of her need – and not necessarily the most important part. She had a much deeper need and Jesus wanted to meet her in that need.
- The woman comes trembling to Jesus. She has spent 12 years being pushed out, criticized, rejected, ostracized, and it's no wonder that she perhaps fully expected to be chastised, to be criticized, to have the teacher be angry and indignant with her. She was used to it.
- And then Jesus did what no one would have expected. He looks at her and changes her entire life:
- "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." The word "daughter" has a paternal dynamic – only time this particular word is used in the entire gospels. It is a tender word. An affectionate one.
- Go in peace. You no longer need to fret. To be worried. To be anxious. This woman hadn't had peace in a decade.
- Jesus gave this affectionate and tender connection so that the one who no one touched would be touched by Jesus. He conferred on her incredible value where no one valued her. You are mine. I am your father. You belong to me. You were invisible to everyone else – you are visible to me. To my heavenly father.
- She had been rejected as unworthy and Jesus says that she is acceptable to God. You matter. You are worth so much more than this disease.
- He didn't just restore her health. He restored her value, her dignity and her peace. Jesus was not content to heal her body and leave the rest undone.
- When she touched Jesus, the unclean became clean – total opposite what normally happens (the other way around).

- While this is happening, a messenger comes saying that Jairus' daughter had died. Don't bother Jesus any more. It's too late. It was all for nothing. You should have acted sooner. You should have sought him earlier. It must have been devastating for Jairus.
- But Jesus told him to believe and not fear.
- When they got to the house the funeral and mourning had already begun. They didn't have days like we do. It happened right away. Jesus put everyone out and took Peter, James and John and the parents with him.
- Once again, Jesus does something that has so much meaning. He took her hand. Her dead hand and said, "My child, get up." Jesus again uses a tender term. More like "sweetheart." It was like he said, "Honey, time to wake up." And she did. Her parents were freaking out. They had their only child back. I love his first instructions – feed her.
- Think about it. The first person the child saw, the first voice she heard, the first touch she felt – was Jesus.
- It is a beautiful picture of how it will be for us. When we die, the first person we will see, the first person we will touch, the first voice we hear, will be the tender, loving voice of our Savior.
- Jesus told the disciples and parents not to tell anyone what had happened – why? Because he did not want the sign to overshadow the message.
- The message is that healing is not the ultimate goal. It is bigger and better than this.

## **I. We suffer sickness and death, but that was not God's original design.**

- When God created the world and put Adam and Eve in the garden, it was perfect. They were in perfect health and they lived in perfect relationship with God. Their bodies were not supposed to break down.
- When they sinned, they introduced sickness, suffering and death into the world. Sickness and death are the interlopers in this world. They do not belong. Every time someone suffers from sickness, every time someone dies, we should be reminded that it was not supposed to be this way. It was not part of God's design.
- When we broke it through sin and introduced suffering and death into the world, God cared enough to address this problem. So he sent his son Jesus to redeem the world, INCLUDING sickness and death. When Jesus died, he broke the power of sickness and death. He was restoring things to how he made them in the first place.
- We struggle sometimes because the fullness of that healing is yet to be.

*Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.*

- Creation groans. If you've ever been sick, you can picture this. Groaning. I just want to be better. I want to feel normal again. That is a picture of our entire world. We are groaning. We want to be better.
- Even though death and sickness have been defeated through Christ, we still experience sickness and death today because we are waiting for when Jesus will return, when we shall receive a resurrected body, never to experience pain, suffering, and death again.
- This is the good news.

## **II. Jesus set free from the curse of sin and death!**

- We all know the story of Adam and Eve. When they sinned with all the resulting consequences, this was the devil's work. When Jesus came, it was to destroy this work.

1 John 3:8 *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

- When Jesus took upon Himself our punishment on the cross, it included redeeming us from sickness and death.
- Throughout Jesus life, when he healed people, he was pulling back the curtain on what his kingdom will look like. What he is like. It's like he was revealing what life was supposed to be like and what it will be like again someday. He came to undo all the effects of the Fall – to redeem every part of the curse impacting body, mind, and soul.
- We celebrate that through Christ we have been set free from the bondage to sin and the curse of death! Jesus came to provide salvation from the guilt of sin, from estrangement with God or spiritual death, from the power of sin, and from sickness, pain, and physical death.
- This means that:

### **III. God invites us to seek forgiveness and healing.**

- James, the brother of Jesus, said it this way:

*James 5:13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

- Healing has always been a part of the kingdom of God. Since the ultimate kingdom of God has no sickness, no death, no suffering, when we ask God for healing, we are asking for him to let his kingdom peak in and take center stage for a time.

#### **A. Jesus desires to heal the whole person.**

- We are to seek God for physical healing. Ask him freely. What you notice from James though is that he connects physical healing with the healing of the rest of us.
- God invites us to do two things.
- Confront our deepest spiritual needs. Repentance. Confession. Meeting God for those needs that seem to run under the surface. Why? Because he longs for us to experience the freedom and healing that come through forgiveness! Jesus has atoned for our sin and offers us forgiveness, and extends His grace to us.
- We are invited to seek Him for healing of our bodies as well. He not only died to redeem us from sin, He died to rescue our bodies from death. Sickness and disease are a by-product of our dying bodies. God extends healing grace to those who seek him.
- We must understand that God is in touch with our deepest needs and fears.
- Like with the nameless woman and the ruler with a child, Jesus knows what is needed most. He knows where we need freedom the most. He knows where we need his touch the most.
- Any healing God does in this life is temporary anyway. Every single person Jesus healed or raised from the dead in the gospel accounts, got sick and died eventually.
- When God heals someone, it is a sign that points to a great reality. That's why:

#### **B. God desires for us to pursue the healer over the healing.**

- It is absolutely part of God's plan to be able to ask God for healing.
- But healing without a relationship with Jesus has little eternal value.
- Many people want their circumstances to be alleviated but are not all that interested in following Jesus the rest of the time.
- We too often see healing right now as the end game or ultimate goal. And it makes sense. We want relief from our suffering or someone we love to be relieved of their suffering. It

doesn't feel fair. We look at things by how much we could do or be if we just could be healed. But our value to our heavenly father is not based on our utility or usefulness to him.

- It is easy to make our prayers for healing like a demand vs. a request. We issue ultimatums, telling God that if he won't heal, we won't follow.
- Jesus sees the truer picture and his desire or end game is to form us to be like his son.
- Jesus calls the woman to reveal herself because he wanted her to encounter him personally. He wanted to meet her in every place of need.
- Jesus invited Jairus to see a bigger picture in relation to his faith – to see beyond what his own logic could make sense of.
- It's why when you come to be prayed for, the question we ask is "What do you want Jesus to do for you?"
- **C. When God doesn't physically heal, it does not mean he is absent.**
- There are times when He chooses not to heal but provides the grace and strength to press on as we serve His Kingdom purposes!
- He is still sovereign. He knows infinitely more than we do.
- We have a clear picture in our mind. God, if you heal them, then it will show the world you are real, it will give them the strength to witness, and more people will be saved. Our logic seems iron clad. But we come to God for healing with a humility that admits he might have a larger plan.
- God is often more shown in our response to suffering than in a healing from the suffering.
- So we seek healing, but we seek the healer first. And whether he heals right now, we can still live with confidence in Jesus because

#### **IV. Our hope is based on the ultimate healing of all.**

- The day is coming when both sin and death will be completely destroyed!
- Jesus came to completely destroy the work of the devil, and He will not rest until the devil and all his work have been completely destroyed.
- Even as we pray for and seek healing in our lives today, we remain focused on the hope we have in Christ's return, when both sin and death will be completely destroyed!

*Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

- On that day, we will be made new in every way – body, soul, and spirit. What a day that will be! Lock this hope into your soul.

#### **Conclusion**

- Family, Jesus is our healer. His death has ended the power of sin, suffering and death.
- Suffering and death is not the way it was designed to be and will not be how it will always be.
- Today, we live in a broken world. A world that is twisted. Our lives will have sickness, suffering and for every one of us, eventually, death.
- This is not a cause for anger, hopelessness, or frustration.
- Not because it isn't hard – it is.
- Not because we don't want God to heal – we want this.
- Not because we hate to see loved ones suffer – we do.
- It's because our sickness and suffering is not the end of our story.
- So pursue God for healing. Ask him.

- Ask knowing he cares deeply about your suffering. He hurts and suffers with you. He is not ignorant for what you or someone you love is going through. Just like with the bleeding woman and with Jairus, Jesus sees your suffering.
- Ask knowing that he has the power over your sickness. He healed a woman who had been sick for 12 years. He raised a dead girl to life. His power is incomparable.
- Ask knowing that he desires for you to know him. To connect with him. To meet your deepest and most desperate need, just as he did with a lonely, rejected woman.
- Ask knowing that he has a plan that while we may not understand, is the best possible plan. Jairus had not idea what Jesus' plan was when his daughter died.
- Ask knowing that our eternity is assured, with perfect health, no suffering, and that when we eventually die, the first face, the first touch, the first words we experience upon death will be from our loving, personal, caring, victorious Savior.
- So come, let us anoint you. Let's seek God for healing. The healing of our bodies. Our souls. Our emotions. What do you want Jesus do to for you? Come and ask.