

Africa team 2012

Teaching Session 2

Why did Jesus heal?

All of our experience flows from that of Jesus. How did he exercise his healing ministry?

The first thing to know is that it figured very highly on his list of priorities. Over 50% of the first 10 chapters of Mark's Gospel are devoted to healing. Jesus never held back:-

"That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was." (Mark 1: 32-34)

Why is this so important?

1. It sets healing as one of the key experiences of the Christian faith. If Jesus made it so central, then so must we.
2. It means that God's creation is in great need of healing
3. It means that many, believers and non-believers will be open to being healed. When we offer prayer for healing, we are going through a door which is very much open in so many lives, because the need is great.

*** The cross**

Surely he took up our infirmities (HEB sickness)
and carried our sorrows; (Pain, physical and mental)(Isa 53:4)

***Love:** "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.
The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." (Mark 10:51)

***Encourage faith:** He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." (Mark 5:34)

***Challenge:** All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Acts 9:35

Now the bad news!

*** Satan obstructs healing:** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4)

God can't heal: God won't heal me: I don't have enough faith: God doesn't want everyone healed. This is my cross to bear: I can manage.

So when we have healing opportunities for laying on of hands, people don't take it, and stay sick. Yet 60% of Mark 10, plus this wonderful verse, in the present tense say opposite.

Now the best news! "Jesus Christ heals you."