

"The Truth about...Healing" 14th Nov 2021: #16 "Healing" Study Notes

Malachi 4:2a But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in His wings;

Previous weeks have referenced the early church in Acts.

Healing cannot be separated from the ministry of the church.
The pattern in the NT is not for separate healing meetings, it was the everyday activity of the church.

every culture is defined by what it forbids.
Church is often known by what it forbids, but it should be known by what it does.
The church should be known for sacrificial love and evidence of God's graceand power.

3 elements of the NT church, if balanced we will begin to look like a NT church:

The boundaries of this community – The teaching of the Apostles.
Grace - What God did. Acts 4:33
Grace, which is the Presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
Behaviour of the people – the love, community, sharing and giving. That was something organic that grew out of who they were.

Acts 2:40-47.

Boundaries, grace and behaviour.

Boundaries

If we live right and within the boundaries set by God then it will lead to salvation and blessing in our lives.
None of us like the idea of boundaries. The law is a good thing. Word picture – aiming in the right direction.

Covenant name of God - Yahweh
Exodus 15:26 – healing is conditional and linked to obedience – living according to Gods way.

Yahweh Rophe
Rapha – restoring something to its normal state.

Spiritual healing

"O Jehovah, be gracious to me. Heal (rophe) my soul, for I have sinned against You." (Ps 41:4)

Emotional healing

He heals (rophe) the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

Physical healing

Genesis 20:17 Then Abraham prayed to God and God healed (rophe) Abimelech, his wife and his female slaves so that they could bear children.

The Whole picture

Isa 53:5 But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement for our shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (rophe).

Behaviour - living in the freedom that God's boundaries created.

Galatians 5:1

How do we do that? By living in the truth – the Bible.

And our behaviour will grow out of our shared and individual relationship with God.

Grace

Do we see the grace of God in our community expression?

Grace is not just an abstract term. We know that we are saved by grace alone, because that's what the scripture tells us.

When we speak of grace we speak of God's unmerited, that is underserved, favour.

A believer in Jesus receives forgiveness and salvation through God's mercy. We cannot earn salvation.

Every step of God's salvation is through grace.

His choosing (Eph 4:1-6)

His call to the Gospel (2 Tim 1:9)

His regeneration of dead sinner (Eph 2:5)

His gift of saving faith (Acts 18:27)

His redemption and justification of sinners (Titus 3:7)

His forgiveness of sins (Eph 1:7)

His sanctification of believers (2 Cor 9:8, 2 Thess 2:16-17)

His preservation of the Saints (1 Cor 1:4,8)

His glorification of believers (1 Cor 15:57, 2 Thess 1:12)

God saves 'to show in the ages to come the measureless richness of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Jesus'. Eph 2:7

How is this related to healing?

He not only saves us through grace but He continues to work in our lives.

An essential element of the NT church was God's power that was with them, for healing and miracles.

It is God's desire to work in power in His church. And we are His church.

Danger of secular humanist values in the church can be seen in our attitude to sickness. Some believers never use a doctor.

We have inbuilt regeneration – and medical skills work with that.

We need to look first and foremost to the Lord for healing. Healing of body, mind and spirit.

Grace is also demonstrated then God intervenes in our everyday lives, with things like – miracles and healing – things we cannot do.

Healing is not a formula.

If we reduce it to a formula then if that does not work, it ends up being our fault.

Although there are different ways God heals it is through one method alone – it is with a personal encounter with Jesus.

Everybody has their own testimony or story about how they came to know the Lord. No story is the same, in the same way God heals people in different ways.

Biblical examples

Matthew 9:18-38 (Also Luke 8)

In these verses we see several healings.

1. Jairus Daughter – also recorded in Luke 8
2. The woman with the issue of blood 12 years
3. 2 blind men
4. A demon possessed man who was unable to speak.

A summary of this is given in Matthew 9:35

The next event is that in Matthew 10 and Luke 9 Jesus sends out the 12 disciples and commands them to do a couple of things:

1. Preach the Kingdom
2. Heal the sick

It says that He gave them power over unclean spirits and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease.

Out of 3,779 verses in the four Gospels, more than 700 relate specifically to Jesus healing physical and mental illnesses.

It's very clear from the ministry of Jesus, the disciples in this example and in the book of Acts that power or authority was a key issue here.

It was not a case of calling a prayer meeting it was acting in power and authority.

Matthew 10 they were to go to towns and villages and "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast our demons. Freely you have received, freely give". Matthew 10:8

Why were they so effective?

healing of any kind must involve a personal encounter with Jesus. In the Gospels we see that very clearly, He touched the sick, He commanded others in His Presence, He spoke a word into people's lives.

But there was also a necessity of a recognition for those who were seeking him, blind people who asked for sight, the woman touching the hem of his garment, the Centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant and yet would not allow him in his house because he said he was not worthy.

These were all different encounters with Jesus.

Acts 10:38

Jesus did this because God was with Him.

In Matthew 10 it was those who themselves had had an encounter with Jesus through whom the miraculous happened.

In Acts 5:12-16 We see the increasing power amongst those who knew the Lord.

And then in Acts 19:11-12.

We should not be more interested in the gift than the giver

Are we focussed as individuals on the proclamation of the Kingdom, where the Kingdom is proclaimed the signs of the Kingdom follow.

What are the signs of the Kingdom?

In Matthew 9 and 10 and Luke 8 and 9, where various healings and miracles took place, following the narrative Jesus sends out His disciples in His name and gave them authority.

What happened next?

Matthew 11:3-5.

And this of course is a reference to Isaiah 61:1-2.

Matthew 9:1-8

Have we forgotten who Jesus is?

Many received their healing because they recognised and acknowledged who Jesus was. In the text it says He saw their faith, how?

In this chapter we also have the woman who touched the hem of Jesus garment, what was the significance of that?

Malachi 4:2

The term used is kanaph, means "wings, edges, feathers, skirt, or borders."

Throughout the OT we see a picture of a God who will cover us with His wings.

Numbers 15:37-39

Matthew 9:20 the woman with the issue of blood reached out to touch the hem of His garment. Jesus as a believing Jewish man would be wearing the prayer shawl.

Also, Matthew 14: 35-36

There was no power in the garment.

What the woman and the men were doing was recognising what had been said about the Messiah in Malachi.

It was a confession of faith. They were recognising who Jesus was.

Malachi was the last of the prophets, about 400 years before Jesus, and is an incredibly powerful prophecy about John the Baptist and the Messiah, there is so much in there about them. And Jewish people would have lived with those prophecies.

And now people were recognising Messiah was here.

Three principles of the NT church:

Boundaries – teaching the Bible

Grace – the Presence of God

Behaviour – Compassionate sacrificial love for one another

Have we stopped proclaiming the Kingdom?

Have we lost the compassion that characterised Jesus ministry and the early church.

Jesus motivation - Matthew 14:14

Do we have the compassion of Jesus that was so evident in the early church.

Because then healing becomes a supernatural outworking of the church.