

“A New Way to Look at Sickness”

Matthew 8:14-17

Sickness:

- We all experience sickness.
- Some have learned to live with pain.
- Under constant care, with sometimes many life-saving drugs.
- We go to physical examinations...*what are they going to find?*

We all have worries, concerns about health!

What would it be like to have no health problems?

- Have you ever thought about what that would be like?
- Feeling great all the time
- Lots of energy and strength to do whatever you want?
- No pain, able to do whatever...

Sickness keeps us from doing whatever we want!

In Sickness:

- What about the intercessory work of our God?
- What is He doing in our lives?
- Sickness delays us, we learn God's timing... Illustration...
- Even with other's sickness that is not our own.
- Such as taking care of a parent or helping with a grandparent...
- *Now think of how we are developed, taught, unified by each other's sickness, pain, struggles of hospitalizations, surgeries etc.*
- And what do we do? What can we do?
- To help an ailing brother or sister?
- I don't know. I can't relate.
- I can't even begin to understand.
- But does that mean I do nothing?
- No! I care, I call, I text, I visit, spend time, I PRAY!
- Think of the care, concern and Christian love we can share and express because of sickness!!!
- *Would there be any care and concern in the church of God without it?*
- *Do we see sickness as opportunities?*
- **Jesus does!**

In Matthew 8:14-17

- Jesus heals a 3rd person... A leper, a Roman slave, and now a woman.
- And then the passage says a lot more come to him and He heals them all!
- Jesus has compassion, reaches out to people, and Matthew [here] makes a very interesting point in vs 17.
- Normally, we look at the passage in Isaiah 53:4 as spiritually what Jesus, (the suffering servant) did for us.
- HERE Matthew quotes (translates) directly from the Hebrew and uses it in the context of Jesus's healing ministry!

I believe Matthew shows us:

That your Heavenly Father wants you to be well spiritually and physically. Notice the way Matthew points this out:

- I. Jesus healed when individuals had need (vs.14-15)
 - A. Coming to Peter's house
 - B. Peter was married
 - C. Peter's mother-in law (not named)
 - D. Jesus' healing – He touched her hand, it was instant...
- II. Jesus healed all who came to Him (v.16)
 - A. He wanted to... people came in the evening.
Picture the scene:
 - B. Those possessed with devils
 - C. He healed them all – the effect on Capernaum!
- III. Jesus wants to heal your needs (v.17)
 - A. Sickness is the result of sin – directly or indirectly
 - B. It's time to self-examine –

Can God use sickness to get you to repent? Get your attention?

Don't miss it! We pray for healing, and we should for others, but why not pray that God would use it to draw them closer to Himself?

So, in sickness:

- Shouldn't we pray, "Lord what are you trying teach me, what can I learn"?
- I hate this sickness, this affliction, I hate going through all this.
- I hate getting old.
- But what can I learn?
- God can strengthen our maturity, strengthen our prayers, get us equipped to counsel.

Can we feel so sorry for ourselves and how difficult it is, and oh, woe is me; – that we can miss the point?!

God wants to heal, He can, He does, but He also wants you to learn, grow stronger in your Christian walk.

Conclusion:

- Jesus's healing ministry would also illustrate that future time when you see all that was lost [garden of Eden] because of sin.
- So also, physical healings can picture spiritual healing.
- Christ here, in this passage, met every need.
- He is still doing so.
- Have you been spiritually healed from sin?
- Jesus died to make that healing possible, heal your life from sin, heal your marriage, heal your problems, heal your addictions.