

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: Stories of Jesus

Title: Jesus Heals

Speaker: Steve Berg

Text: Matthew 8:14-17

Date: February 19, 2017



Introduction

Matthew tells a short and uncomplicated story of Jesus, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. Every healing is, well, miraculous! Yet somehow, the gospel writers tell these stories with a matter-of-fact ordinariness. The prophet Isaiah wrote that the promised Messiah would bear our sickness and carry our pain. So on every page, Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He healed people. Our point today is that sickness exists because the world is broken by sin. One day, when Jesus returns, there will be no more sickness because Jesus dealt with sin on the cross.

Discussion

1. Read the preceding healing stories in Matthew 8 (a man with leprosy, a paralyzed servant of a Roman soldier) with today's text. What do these three stories tell you about Jesus' healing activity? What has been your experience with Jesus healing people today?
2. In what ways do you complicate or over-think asking Jesus for healing? Why is that our common problem? What are the reasons that you find it hard, or perhaps you don't ask at all, for Jesus to heal?
3. This story is so uncomplicated—Jesus touched her, she was "raised," and she served them while Jesus and the disciples carried on. What would help you to un-complicate healing in the common rhythm of life?
4. Jesus connected healing and demonic deliverance with the message of the Kingdom of God that He preached. What is that connection and why is that essential for us to have confident faith for healing? Matthew 12:28; 9:35; 10:7; Acts 10:38
5. The Bible gives us four reasons to have confidence that God heals. Consider these reasons:
 - Because of God's identity – Exodus 15:26
 - Because of what Christ has done on the cross – Isaiah 53:3
 - Because of what Christ promised – James 5:15
 - Because of what the Holy Spirit does – Romans 8:11
6. Discuss this statement from Steve's teaching:

"The Bible doesn't guarantee unlimited healing, but the Bible does guarantee comprehensive healing through Jesus Christ's complete work of the redemption of our sin in His body on the cross." 1 Peter 2:24-25. How does this make all the difference in life?