

Matthew 8:14-17
The Touch of His Hand

1 Introduction

- a) The healing touch of Jesus – eg, Peter's mother-in-law (v14-15)
 - Ø A busy day for Jesus, but he had time for her
 - Ø Touch is important (but not always necessary)
 - Ø She immediately went about serving them
- b) Our own experience of healing

2 Healing In The Bible

- a) Old Testament
 - Ø Promises of God eg Exodus 23:25, 26, Psalm 41:3
 - Ø The character of God: "I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26)
 - Ø Examples of God healing: eg, 2 Kings 5, Isaiah 38, 39
- b) The ministry of Jesus
 - Ø His teaching about the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14), proclaimed and demonstrated
 - Ø The Kingdom of God is 'Here and now' and 'Not yet'
 - Ø His healings - 25 % of the Gospels
 - Ø His commissions
 - The 12 (Matthew 9:35-10:8)
 - The 72 (Luke 10:1-20)
 - The disciples (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20, John 14:9-14 – especially v.12)

3 Healing in Church History

- a) Many examples of healing and miracles: eg, Acts 3:1-10; Acts 5:12-16
- b) Early Church history: eg, Irenaeus (140-203), Origen (c.185-254),

Augustine (354-430)

- c) Healing is an important part of Christian ministry today, seeking God's 'shalom' (wellbeing) of body, mind and spirit.

4 Healing Today

- a) God does heal today – but the priority is our spiritual salvation. We shall never reach perfection in this life and we all have to die one day.
- b) So we need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We cannot force God to heal in the way we think he should.
- c) Some have are given special gifts of healing (1 Cor 12:9), but we all can pray for healing, as part of the gospel commission.
- d) Pray with simplicity & love (Mark 1:41, Matthew 9:36). Respect the individual at all times. Accept that God knows the full picture and knows what is best.
- e) Prayer
 - Ø What shall I pray for?
 - Ø Any underlying issues?
 - Ø There may be God-given insights
 - Ø 'Come, Holy Spirit'
 - Ø Whatever happens, God still loves you. Stay in the community of the church, where long-term healing happens.

5 Conclusion

- a) God does heal today – physically, emotionally & spiritually
- b) Trust him & persevere

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- ¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever.
- ¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.
- ¹⁶ When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.
- ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

From Psalm 103 H F Lyte (1743-1847)

Surely he took our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:vv4-5