



I. Healing Matters

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO

I find some days easier to believe that Jesus is the healer God. On other days it is a little difficult. How about you?

The past month and a half have been difficult. Shammi and I have attended at least five remote funerals of family and friends. All had succumbed to illnesses other than COVID-19. Apart from students and colleagues at College who were numerous, we personally knew at least thirty people who contracted COVID-19. Thank God, most have recovered or are recovering, but we lost two of our older aunts.

One of them frequently sent me notes of encouragement for these videos I made. What does one do at such a time?

The first thing we did was we grieved. The shortest verse in the Bible tells us that when Jesus heard about his friend Lazarus' death "*Jesus wept.*" Yes, Jesus did not just tear up or sniffle - He wept. We have no further details on how He wept, but it is clear that He grieved the loss and so can we.

It was also a time where we both and many others lifted our hands and hearts asking God to strengthen and heal the sick. We also asked to comfort and lift up the spirits of those who had lost a loved one.

On a similar but slightly different note. What do you do when you get news that someone as close as, say, your brother has been struck by a chronic illness? Or, you get the news of the unexpected passing away of someone you know and is dear to you? Today I wonder about two people I have been praying for many years. One is a teen today and the other a person older than me. They both have inexplicable, debilitating chronic mental illnesses. While the two families hold different beliefs about God, they share the same mix of transient feelings of hope and despair. Just as I do.

How do I deal with this? I do two things. First, I recall the times God responded amazingly and healed people I had prayed for in the past. And am motivated to continue to pray. Secondly, I find it helpful to communicate with Jesus by meditating on His word. A good passage on healing is found in Matthew 14:34-36. "*They crossed over the lake and landed at Gennesaret. The men who lived there recognized Jesus. So, they sent a message all over the nearby countryside. People brought all their sick to Jesus. They begged him to let those who were sick just touch the edge of his clothes. And all who touched him were healed.*" (Matthew 14:34-36)

In this passage, I see that Jesus is recognized by the people as a healer. They bring all who need healing and He heals everyone. All that was required was for the people to recognize who He was and in faith to touch His garment. Yes, first and foremost, before I pray - Matthew uses a much stronger word 'begged' for pray, I must recognize that Jesus is the healer God and not doubt that.

Next, the insight placed in my heart is for me and you to become the 'hem of Jesus garment.' In other words, Jesus' instrument of healing. That people who recognize and believe in Jesus can be healed, as I pray for them. Finally, as a Christian I know that death has no victory over those who go to sleep in the Lord. Yes as Paul says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21)

So, "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory." 1 Cor 15:55

Amen

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This study guide was prepared by Jaywant Michael