

LUKE - Part 21 - Dinner with the doctor

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

¹⁷ ... the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, ¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? ²³ Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? ²⁴ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

²⁵ And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. ³² I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent." - Luke 5:17-32

The gospels are full of accounts of Jesus healing people. In Luke 5:17-32 we see that Jesus is more intent on healing our souls than our sicknesses. But why does Jesus heal? How does He heal? Who does He heal? What should our response be when Jesus heals? What should our response be when He doesn't heal?

Through the varied nature of the accounts of Jesus healing people where sometimes healed many, sometimes He all, sometimes He healed one, sometimes He healed none, we are left without a simple answer to our questions on healing. What we do have are multiple pictures of what Jesus is capable of and of His concern for our healing, both physical but far more so our spiritual healing, and these accounts allow and challenge us to respond in the following four ways:

- 1. Live by faith** - As sons and daughters of God we have unprecedented access to our heavenly Father, allowing us to have faith for healing whether we have received it or not because our faith does not give God his power to heal. We are not called to always understand but we are called to walk by faith.
- 2. See your doctor** - Jesus calls himself our doctor and just like in our physical bodies where early detection or prevention of sickness can save us a lot of pain or worse, so also early detection and prevention of sin through regular screening will save us unnecessary pain.
- 3. Pay it forward** - How are you channelling your gratitude? Serve and spread the love that you have already received, like Simon's mother-in-law who we are told "*immediately she rose and began to serve*" Luke 4:39
- 4. Eyes on the Kingdom** - Even Lazarus the most remarkable example of healing in the gospels died again, and like him we will all one day die. We need to be living with an eternal perspective because only in the eternal kingdom will we truly be healed.