



Healing # 9

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” I have been writing on the subject of healing, in particular about the way in which Jesus healed the sick. He was a master at knowing how to unlock healing miracles for people.

A couple of articles ago, we made eight statements about the healing ministry of Jesus. We discussed the first two in detail last week. Today we will continue on, discussing two more. Here is the next one:

Often after a public healing service, Jesus would go away and pray, sometimes all night.

In the first chapter of Mark, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. That evening, a large crowd came from all over the city and Jesus healed all of the sick people in the crowd. After this incredible healing service, we find this verse:

Mark 1:35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

Here is another example of the same scenario:

Luke 5:15-16 But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.

One time, after John the Baptist was martyred, Jesus went away to pray and then came upon a multitude, healing their sick.

Matthew 14:13-14 Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

In the same account in Mark, it tells us that Jesus and His disciples all went away to the secluded place because there was so much activity and they didn't even have time to eat.

I would like to make a few comments here about the way that Jesus prayed sometimes before, but most often after a healing service. In my estimation there is no greater moment of weakness in the life of a kingdom worker than the period of time right after a successful public ministry meeting. It is in these moments that all of the great wonders of God begin to play over and over in our minds. I have been in this situation many times. Often I wonder how to switch it off.

If I have delivered a message from the Lord to a group of people, I will rehearse it. If I have lead a group of people into the presence of the Lord in worship, I will replay the moments and the songs. I have noticed that in these times I am utterly vulnerable. Subtle thoughts come in these after-ministry times that can easily foster pride. Often, we begin to be impressed with ourselves. If we are not careful, we will also take glory for the things that have happened. If you add to this the fact that we are often quite tired - physically hungry or exhausted, spiritually and mentally drained, it leaves a wide open door for the devil to exploit us and lead us down very dangerous paths.

Jesus was very aware of this potential weakness and would often go away and pray after a healing service. According to Jesus' example, I would like to suggest that the time to pray with fervour might actually be after, not before a meeting.

I heard a wise prophet say something a few years ago that has stuck with me. He said, after a meeting - go back to your home or hotel room, go into the bathroom, put your head to the toilet, tell the toilet all of the things that happened, give God all of the glory, now flush the toilet and put the thoughts out of your mind forever. Then, go and pray for a while and sit in the presence of God. Give Him thanks and praise without agenda and recharge your spirit. If you are hungry, eat. If you are tired, sleep. Don't let anyone interrupt these moments. They are as important to the ministry as the times before the service.

This brings me to our next statement about the healing ministry of Jesus:

Jesus most often told the people He healed not to tell anyone about their miracle.

This particular scenario can be found throughout all four gospels. There is quite a bit of theological rhetoric on this point but in my opinion, most of it is garbage. In plain language, Jesus was serious about not trying to attract attention with His gift. This action was not a matter of practicalities - for instance, Jesus might not be able to handle the crowds if they got too large. It was instead a matter of principle and character. If the Son of God had such a mindset, how much more should we? Do I believe it is important to testify of the wondrous works of God? Yes. But testifying can often become bragging. How many times do the details of the story get exaggerated a bit more with each telling? Are we boasting in God as Paul urges us to do, or are we boasting in ourselves?

We as humans have a mindset that just isn't found in the ministry of Jesus. It is the idea that more people = more ministry success. Let's face it; we are hopelessly impressed with numbers. This notion can be found everywhere. It is especially rampant in the modern day church and evangelistic scene. We often use testimony, no matter how big or small to ramp up excitement, in hopes that people will hear and be attracted to our ministry in greater numbers. Then, when the numbers come, it becomes a sign of greater success or God's blessing on our ministry. Just sayin,' Jesus didn't do ministry like this. Numbers do not imply God's blessing. Jesus often instructed people to not tell in order to keep the fame in check. Jesus wasn't looking for more ministry opportunities. He was looking for the right ones - the ones that He saw the Father doing.

I saw a quote from Rick Joyner the other day that made me think: "A true passion for souls doesn't come out of a love for the lost, it comes out of a love for Jesus." Without a love for Jesus rooted and grounded in us, our passions for ministry can take us places that Jesus would never have gone very quickly. Friends, fame is not cool with Jesus. He shunned it with everything He had - and that goes for individuals as well as organizations. Favour, on the other hand is cool with Jesus. He had favor with God and man. Favor and fame are not the same. Favor is a work of grace in our lives. Fame is a fleeting figment of our imagination, resulting in us being impressed with ourselves.

The two points we have discussed today are in line with building the necessary character able to support a healing ministry such as Jesus had. Without the same foundations as Jesus, our ministry will never be as great as Jesus.

Jesus, let me build on the same foundations that You had. Build into me the character needed for me to heal every sick person who comes across my path. Amen.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is the sure foundation.