

## Jesus Heals

*Healing is about making people whole. God is the one who heals.  
In the Gospel accounts we see just how God heals and what he heals.  
Jesus Christ is the one who effects all healing, at the will of the Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all record healings. This series looks at a few.  
Jesus heals at the request of the sick person, at the request of others, and also when no request can be made.  
He also heals when he is present, and when he is absent.  
He heals physical, mental and spiritual sickness, and also takes healing into the dimensions of social exclusion, personal sin and bondage to evil.  
He uses touch and word of command.  
Jesus also commissions the church to continue the healing ministry in his name.  
We cannot heal, but we can be channels through which Jesus can heal.  
This is the aim of this series. How to discover what Jesus did, and to join him where he is working today.*

### **Session 1: Faith Healing** Luke 5:17-31 (// in Mt.9:2-8; Mk.2:3-12) (03 June 2007)

*Read Luke 5:17-20*

*The Opposition (v 17).*

*What was different between Jesus' teaching and that of the "Pharisees and teachers of the law" (=religious experts)? (cf. Lk. 4:31-32 and Mt. 7:28-29)*

*What is the problem with inflexible religious legalistic doctrine?*

*Can you think of any examples today?*

*How can Jesus heal us from being bound by useless dead tradition?*

*(For a detailed account of how Jesus regarded these people, see Mt. 23:1-39)*

*So what attracted these pseudo-religious people to Jesus and his teaching?*

*The Supporters (vv 18-19)*

*What can we learn from what these men did for the sick man?*

*What was particularly praiseworthy about their whole conduct?*

*Notice that the men are not mentioned again. So what is their role in the healing ministry?*

*Read Luke 5:21-26*

*The Healing*

*Why did Jesus not effect the physical healing first?*

*Why is forgiveness integral to all healing? For what might this man have needed forgiveness?*

*What was the objection from the opposition?*

*What other dimensions of healing would this man have experienced when he returned home?*

- ***Where sickness is acute, the faith of others can bring the sick person to Jesus***

### **Session 2: Distant Healing** Luke 7:1-10 (// in Mt. 8:5-13) (10 June 2007)

*What is the difference between praying for the sick and praying that the sick will be healed?*

*Read Luke 7:1-6*

*What would a military officer (centurion=captain) normally do if one of his personal staff were ill?*

*So what made this man act as he did?*

*What evidence is there of "love of neighbour" in this officer's life? (Note that he is a member of the army of occupation)*

*Why did the Jewish elders act of his behalf?*

*What can we learn here about requests for healing and how they actually get to Jesus?*

*Read Luke 7:7-10*

*How did this officer apply what he knew of life to arrive at a spiritual principle?*

*What made Jesus amazed? (There were also instances which made Jesus despair- cf. Mt. 17:14-20)*

*So what do we learn with regard to Jesus being able to heal "At a distance"?*

- ***Faith in Jesus' authority to heal is the starting-point***

**Session 3: Physical and Spiritual Blindness Healed** Mark 8:22-30 (17 June 2007)

Can't See #1 - Read vv 22-26

Who might "They" have been?

What part do "They" play in the healing?

Why did they want Jesus to touch the man? (See the previous healing recorded in Mk. 7:31-37)

What is so special about touch?

When we lay hands on the sick –what is going on?

This is the sole instance of Jesus healing a person in two phases. Any thoughts why this is so?

Can't See #2 - Read vv 27-30

Why did Jesus ask this question in v 27?

Spiritual blindness is evident in v28.

Look up these references and discover why Jesus was NOT the following:

John the Baptist (Mk. 6:14-29); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11-12); one of the prophets (What God said of him was in Mk. 1:10-11)

Who do people today think Jesus is? Why can't they see who he really is? And how can they be healed?

- **When people are healed of their blindness to who Jesus is, there is healing in all dimensions**

**Session 4: Health and Salvation** Mark 10:46-52 (24 June 2007)

Read vv 46-50

What might Bartimaeus have expected from Jesus?

Why was he told to shut up? In whose interest was this?

What is the value of persistence when we are desperate?

What can be the effect of shouting at God? (See Psalm 107 –especially the refrain in vv 6, 13, 19, 28)

Read vv 51-52

There is a symbolic action in the two phrases "Throwing his cloak aside, he came to Jesus" and "He followed Jesus along the road". What do you make of this?

What did he actually leave behind, and what made him go forward, or follow, after the healing?

What was the deeper sense was evident in his request "I want to see"?

- **Healing and Salvation come together**

**Session 5: Healing Opposed** Luke 4:31-37 (// in Mk. 1:21-28) (01 July 2007)

First read Luke 4:14-30 to see what had been going on before Jesus came to Capernaum.

What sort of opposition was building up? Why?

How serious was this opposition? How did Jesus deal with it?

Now read Luke 4:31-37

Why was Jesus here and what was he doing?

What was the effect on his hearers?

Why did this interruption happen?

Why was there no request for healing on this particular occasion?

Why then did Jesus heal? What was he doing?

What do you suppose was the result afterwards (1) for the man? (2) For those who witnessed the healing?  
(3) For the kingdom of God?

- **Where there is evil, God can heal, and eradicate the evil**

**Session 6: Character Healing** Luke 19:1-10 (08 July 2007)

Read vv 1-7

What initial assessment is there that Zacchaeus doesn't really need anything?

So why did he want to find out about Jesus?

What makes such people inquisitive about the person of Jesus?

Why did Jesus say "I MUST stay at your house today"?

Why did all the other people react negatively?

Read vv 8-10

What happened to Zacchaeus?

What does this change of character imply?

Jesus' words in v 9 can also mean "Today healing has come to this house". So what was healed? And what had been lost? (v 10)

What would be the change in Zacchaeus' character now?

How did this healing affect others?

Note that afterwards, the house was used for God's mission through Jesus (vv11-27).

- **Healing of character allows God to transform a life, and through this, to touch the lives of others**

**Session 7: Healing from Long-Term Illness** John 5:1-15 (15 July 2007)

Read vv 1-7

What are the effects of this long (v 3) illness on the sufferer?

When we are ill long-term, what happens when our only social contact is with others who are also ill?

What was the point of Jesus asking the question in v 6?

And why does the man answer as he does?

What might have been his expectation of cure?

Read vv 8-15

Is there a reason for no touch, no laying on of hands in this healing?

What problem do the Jews (= the religious leaders) have with what Jesus has done, and why?

Why does Jesus give the advice in v 14?

So what actually WAS the complete healing in this case?

- **Healing sets free from suffering in this life and from sin for all eternity**

Bill Smith 28 May 2007