



Healing and Wholeness (4) Physical Healing Luke 10.1-11

Opening up! Connecting with each other.

Share if you wish an experience of healing. It can be great or small – from a cut to a brain transplant!

Series prayer

Come in weakness, find strength; come in sickness, find health;
Come in chains, find freedom; come in confusion, find peace;
Come in sorrow, find joy; come in doubt, find faith;
Come in despair, find courage; come alone, find Christ.

Listening in!

1. Read Luke 10.1-11

Jesus told his disciples to 'heal the sick'

Teaching on healing

- Physical healing focuses on the person not the problem. We seek God's perspective; the whole person is to be cared for (Mark 2.1-12). We are not to make assumptions. God and the person set the agenda. 'What do you want me to do for you?' (Matthew 20.32)
'Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.' (3 John 2)
- Some New Testament words for healing from the story of the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8.43-48:
v 43 therapeuo 'no-one could heal her' - meaning to care, treat, cure, heal.
v 47 laomai 'she was healed' - meaning to heal.
v 48 sozo 'your faith has saved you' – meaning to save.
There is a link between health, healing, wholeness, holiness and salvation. The church is called to be a therapeutic community, an advocate of healing and a messenger of salvation.
- Prayer and medicine – we need both.
James 5.14 'Is any sick ... call the elders'.
Luke 10.30 – 37 the Good Samaritan. Oil and wine are used in early medical care.
Mark 7.33 'Jesus spat and touched his tongue'. Spittle was thought to have healing properties.
God works through medicine as well as through prayer. Surely we combine them both. Why not pray over your prescribed medicine?
- Now and later – healing can be progressive (Ecclesiastes 3.1-8; 8.4-8; Mark 8.22)
- Healing is not simply problem solving
- chronic illness and disability can yield unique insights and ministries
- acceptance of incurability can open up new possibilities and restore self-control and self-esteem
- the vulnerable may need protection from insensitive ministry.
- Life and death – God is in control:
Romans 8.38 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.'
Romans 14.7 'Living and dying we belong to God.'
John 14.1-6 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'
Death is not the worst thing that can happen to a Christian!
- We are to pray for healing and be instruments of healing by being like Mary and Martha (Luke 10.38 – 42) – simply caring and showing compassion and giving time, but also by praying that Jesus will meet people at this point of need.

Looking Out!

Share with one another:

- What parts of this teaching do you immediately find encouraging, challenging, difficult, reassuring?
- You might want to work through each of the above sections and discuss whether any apply to your life and how so?
- Do you struggle with any aspect of teaching about healing? You're probably not alone. If so, can the group think of any area in the Bible where that struggle is either echoed, or addressed? The Psalms is full of struggles, so you will probably find sympathy there (e.g. Psalm 13 with its 'How long...')

Looking up!

Prayer

Turn your discussion into prayer as the Lord leads you. Take time to pray for each other out loud or silently as feels appropriate. Remember, it is the responsibility of each of us to make the group a safe place to share without feeling judged. Guard confidentiality.