

Doctor, Doctor

On Sunday we continued our quest to experience Jesus at a deeper level by focusing on Jesus as healer.

1. Warm-up Question: At the outset of his sermon, Pastor David shared a song that he has found very healing in his life, “My God and My All” by John Michael Talbot. Is there a song that you find powerfully healing?
2. David mentioned a miracle healer evangelist he once saw on TV who encountered a man with a walker. When the televangelist took the man’s walker and threw it to the side, the man fell down. The televangelist responded, “God don’t heal drunks.” David never watched that televangelist again. What do you make of people who claim to have the gift of healing? Do you think some people have special gifts in this area?
3. In the Gospels, we encounter three Greek words that refer to healing. They are:
 - Sozo** Salvation – restoring spirit, body, and soul – healing the entire person.
 - Therapeu** To serve, to cure, to make well through various ways – gifts of healing.
 - Laomoai** To make whole, free from error or sins. One way of healing – miraculous healing.
 - a. Which of these three words most appeals to you – and why?
 - b. David said, “A seemingly simple word seems complex. Healing is complex! But within the complexity is simplicity – healing is about wholeness – mind, body, and soul.” How do you feel about the concept of holistic healing? Is it possible to be cured in body, but not mind or soul? How interconnected do you think mind, body, and soul are?
 - c. If you could only be healed in one area – mind, body, or soul – which would you choose – and why?
4. In Jesus’ day, if you were disabled or had some kind of serious illness, most people thought you were being punished for your sins. Illness and disability were generally thought to be curses by God. People thought that just being in the presence of such a person, or touching them, or even speaking to them could cause the curse to rub off on you. As a result, sick people often felt isolated, depressed, loathsome, and unworthy. With this in mind, let’s now read Luke 5:17-26.
 - a. On Sunday we watched this Bible passage portrayed in Franco Zeffirelli’s film “Jesus of Nazareth.” What most struck you as you watched the scene unfold?

- b. Based on what you read in this passage, and what you saw in the film clip, make a list of all the various things Jesus did in the story to help bring holistic healing to the paralyzed man.
 - c. How do you think the paralyzed man felt when Jesus took time for him, listened to him, spoke to him, and even touched him?
 - d. How do you think he felt when Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven?”
 - e. How do you think he felt when Jesus said, “I say to you, stand up, take up your bed, and go home”?
 - f. David identified several key things Jesus did that we can do when seeking to be a healing presence: (a) listen; (b) touch; (c) show kindness and compassion; (d) acknowledge – make sure the person knows they are seen and heard; and (e) take time. Who is the most healing presence you’ve encountered in your life? What was it that made them such a healing presence?
5. David told us about his ordeal with a brain tumor 26 years ago. He read a passage from a daily devotional Jeff prepared for him in the days leading up to his surgery. The devotional talks about the importance of surrender if we are ever going to be whole in our spirit. It encouraged David to repeat the following mantra:
- “Throughout the course of my life, some difficult things are going to happen. That’s just part of life. I demand nothing from God. Whatever God chooses to allow to come my way – both good and bad – I will accept with thanksgiving and with faith that it will work together for good. I give up. I will not struggle. Whether I live or I die, is God’s problem.”
- What do you think of this advice? How important – or not – is surrender to holistic healing?
- 6. Think about someone in your life right now who needs you to be a healing presence.
 - a. Tell us what that person is facing.
 - b. Tell us what it might look like for you to be a healing presence for them.
 - 7. Tell us about a place in your own life right now – mind, body, or soul – where you need healing.
 - a. Tell us what’s happening.
 - b. Tell us what you might do to foster healing?