



Healing and the Sacrifice of Jesus

They bound Jesus to the whipping post. Then one of the soldiers in the garrison picked up the most brutal whip available and lashed down across the back of Jesus time and time again until the blood flowed freely from His back. They untied Jesus and sat Him down on a stool. Then, one by one, the Roman soldiers mockingly knelt down in front of Jesus jeering, “hail the king of the Jews.” They spat in His face and slapped Him as hard as they could. “Wait a moment,” one of them said, “We must have a crown for this so called king. Where will we get a crown?” One of the soldiers standing by a thorn bush had an evil idea. “Why don’t we use these thorns to make a crown for this king of the Jews?” They pushed the sadistic barbed circlet down on Jesus’ head until the blood streamed down His face.



The guards took Him back to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate thrust Jesus into the view of the angry mob that had been crying for His death and declared, “BEHOLD THE MAN.” This image reaches across the centuries and confronts us today as much as it did the people in Pilate’s courtyard -- Jesus wounded, bleeding, and broken. In order to help us understand this horror and its meaning for our lives Peter explained the connection between healing and Christ’s suffering this way, “*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you were healed*” (1 Peter 2:24).

Overview

Sickness came into the world as a result of original sin when Adam disobeyed God, and not necessarily because of the personal failure of an afflicted person. However, even when a person’s illness is caused by his or her own sin, that too was dealt with through Jesus’ suffering on our behalf. When Jesus died for our

sins, He also died to counter the effects of sin.

Sickness, disease, and suffering came into the world as a direct result of man’s fall into sin. It was a part of the death sentence imposed on mankind when Adam disobeyed God (Genesis 2:16-17).

Throughout the Bible, we see a connection between man’s moral fall and sickness. When Christ healed the paralyzed man, as recorded in Mark 2:1-12, He began by forgiving his sins. Both Deuteronomy 28:15 and John 5:14 link sickness with sin. Christ had to deal with both on the cross. By suffering for our sins, He also suffered for our sicknesses.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe that Divine Healing is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to heal the sick and afflicted in answer to believing prayer;

- Aimee Semple McPherson,
Founder ICFG



Hundreds of years before it actually happens, the prophet Isaiah sees a picture of Christ upon the cross, a picture of Him so stricken with the afflictions of mankind that men turn their faces away in horror (Isaiah 53:3-4). As the fulfillment of the prophecy, the Christ of the cross was despised and ridiculed by callous men. As we look back, we see the beauty of what Jesus accomplished for us through His suffering. Because He suffered and died, we do not have to pay the price for our own sins (Romans 6:23). His sacrifice on the cross declares “Your sins be forgiven and be made whole.”

He Was Acquainted With Grief

Jesus is completely familiar with all our sins, sicknesses, anguish, temptation, and brokenness. Christ knows what we are going through because He has been there Himself (Hebrews 4:15-16). Isaiah 53:3 says “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.” On the cross, Jesus faced suffering and pain to an extreme. He can empathize with us no matter what we encounter.

He Was Wounded For Us

Jesus paid the price for both our sins and our sicknesses. He died that we might not die, and He suffered that we might not suffer. Christ paid for our sins upon the cross, making it possible for God to forgive us and to credit our “account” with Christ’s perfect righteousness. When punishment was inflicted upon Jesus on the cross, it was our punishment. Christ was our substitute, taking our place and receiving what we justly deserved. We are saved because our Savior took our condemnation. We are healed because Jesus faced the pain in our place -- “*By His wounds we are healed*” (Isaiah 53:5).

He Bore The Iniquity of Us All

When man chose to disobey God, he brought upon himself several curses. These curses include

sickness, injury, and eventually bodily death.

In order to lift this curse of sin, God laid upon His Son the sins of the human race (Isaiah 53:6). The hard truth is that sickness still exists in the world. Jesus made a way through His suffering and death to bring healing to those who ask.

Good News For Christians Today

Because Jesus suffered such great pain on the cross, people can receive forgiveness for sin; forgiveness results in eternal life with Christ. Matthew 8:16-17 makes it clear that the healing ministry of Jesus was a fulfillment of the prophecy from Isaiah 53:4-6. Isaiah 53 is also mentioned in 1 Peter 2:24 which indicates that forgiveness of sin and literal physical healing are both included in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Our sins have already been sacrificed for, so we need have no condemnation. Likewise, our sicknesses have already been suffered for, so we need not, now, suffer them.

Jesus purchased our deliverance. He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) which are death and sickness. The atoning work of Christ delivers the body from disease just as it delivers the soul from sin. Only Christ’s sacrifice prevails against the work of Satan; therefore, it is important that believers invoke the name of Jesus against sin and disease, thus manifesting Christ’s victory.

We Believe in Divine Healing



Personal Response

When Peter quotes Isaiah 53 (1 Peter 2:24), he puts the word “healed” in the past tense, “*by his wounds you were healed.*” Calvary’s victory had already been accomplished before this was written. The penalty of our sins had already been paid by Christ. Likewise, Jesus had already suffered for our sicknesses. Our responsibility is to believe God’s Word and live our lives based on this faith.

What accomplishment of Jesus made your forgiveness possible?

How has Jesus provided for your physical healing?

What accomplishment of Jesus brings comfort when you are faced with the pain of death?



HEART PERSPECTIVE

“When Satan entered the purity of the Garden of Eden, in the form of a serpent, two ‘angels of darkness’ followed hard on his trail -- his coming brought the double curse of sin and sickness.

When Christ came into the dying world to redeem it from the curse, there came in His blessed footsteps two ‘angels’ of light and hope -- His coming brought the double cure, salvation and healing.”

-- Aimee Semple McPherson
Divine Healing Sermons, p 23

Consider a God who loved you so much that He was willing to face the agony of the cross so He could identify with us and feel what we feel. He understands the pain, the anguish, and the disappointments of this life. He literally put Himself in our place. Christ took the hurt so we don’t have to. He underwent the suffering so we could be healed. Jesus has made for us a double cure with its blessing for body and soul. We ought to share Jesus’ love and what His sacrifice accomplished with others who are hurting.





Lesson 11 Teaching Outline

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1 REFERENCE POINT (15 minutes)

Begin the class by asking the students what or who they would be willing to suffer for. What would be the purpose? Have one of the students read the *Reference Point* and discuss what Jesus went through for us.

Could you really take the torture for someone who did not love you or care about your pain? Movies, dramas, or paintings help us envision the physical suffering of Jesus, but who can understand His spiritual suffering? Christ, who never did anything wrong, took all of our sin to the cross and paid the ultimate price for us.

2 OVERVIEW (10 minutes)

Use the *Overview* section to initiate a discussion of how sickness came into the world. Stress the verses that reveal a connection between sickness and sin. We need to be very careful in judging others regarding the cause of sickness because illness does not, by itself, indicate punishment for sin. However, there may be times when we are sick that we should examine our lives and let the Holy Spirit reveal any sin in us.

3 INSIGHT (25 minutes)

Show the crucifixion scene from a video about the life of Jesus. Go through Isaiah 53:3-6 explaining what the Son of God did for us. He suffered and died in our place so we do not have to pay for our sins. Encourage students to ask questions so they really understand the result of Jesus' sacrifice. Trusting Jesus for physical healing is similar to trusting Him for spiritual rebirth. Both were accomplished at the cross of Calvary. The work is finished. Help the students realize that they can pray when they are sick, believing God to heal them.

TAKING IT HOME

PERSONAL RESPONSE (Conclusion, 10 minutes)

Have the students write out their answers in the *Personal Response* section of the lesson. Then have a few students share their answers with the rest of the class.

HEART PERSPECTIVE (Personal Devotions)

Encourage the students to turn to the Lord in time of illness and pain, trusting Jesus to touch their bodies. Christ already suffered in our place nearly 2,000 years ago so that today we do not have to suffer.

FAITH SHARING (Follow-Up)

Christ healed because of His great love and compassion for broken humanity. He also healed to bring people within the sound of His preaching. Healing still brings people to a position where they are willing to hear the gospel.