

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

More than Skin Deep

Luke 5: 12 - 26

Having considered the overview of the conflicts with the religious leaders, we come back, in this study, to consider the details of these particular events. Much can be learned about the nature of Divine healing in the analysis of these incidents.

I. The Relationship of Sin to Sickness: all illness and disability is a result of original sin and is, therefore, always related to sin at its root.

- A. The leper in this passage is cleansed
- B. The paralytic is forgiven
- C. Some have illness caused by demonic spirits
- D. Some have disease through no possible fault of their own
- E. Some see advantage in illness and are unsure if they want healing

II. Physical illness is a very complex issue. It always involves a delicate and convoluted interplay between spirit, soul, and body.

- A. Some illnesses are the consequence of guilt, stress, excessive worry, or overwork. They arise from the breakdown of the immune system or significant organ failure due to fatigue and constant adrenal stimulation.
- B. Many mental disorders are secondary to an emotional need to escape life's stressors, or they may be a result of physical stress or trauma.
- C. Often prolonged physical illness has secondary effects on the emotions resulting in unhealthy coping mechanisms.
- D. All of these impact our relationship with God and with others, having a direct bearing on our spirit which may lead to rebellion, bitterness, or secondary affective disorders resulting in a vicious cycle.
- E. Demons often gain admission and a stronghold through sin, fear, or familial patterns of bondage.

III. True healing can only be effected by the Great Physician. He alone understands perfectly the complexity of our illness and He alone can heal at all three levels simultaneously.

- A. God can, and still does, heal the body of all manner of disease and disability.
- B. He is most interested in the restoration of our spirit in this earthly life (regeneration), and in leading us to an abundant life free from fear and stress resulting from the pursuit of wrong goals.
- C. Three levels of healing are available to all people:
 - 1) regeneration—the healing of the spirit—for all who believe in His name
 - 2) sanctification—the healing of the soul—for all who submit to His Spirit
 - 3) resurrection—the healing of the body—for all who have trusted in Him for life

IV. In all cases, regardless of the diagnosis, it is both a privilege and a command for all believers to bring their sickness to Jesus. Only in Him will we find the complete and

While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him. And He ordered him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." 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 day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you think it is possible for a health care professional to give a definitive answer to the absolute cause of any illness?
- 2. Do you think it is possible to say with certainty why a person may suffer from a particular mental disorder or develop a particular coping technique?
- 3. While it is probably safe to presume that there actually is a cause and effect relationship between illness and its precursors, in fact, there may be many intermediate causes that are complexly interwoven. Who is most capable of knowing with certainty what the true problem is?
- 4. What are some reasons why God might delay physical healing?
- 5. Given identical circumstances (prisoners of war, for example), why do some become physically ill, some become emotionally disturbed, some suffer much later from illness or PTSD, and some never get sick or

been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today." Luke 5: 12-26 NASB

And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not s t r a i g h t e n u p at all.

Luke 13:11 NASB

And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them. While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ.

Luke 4: 39-41 NASB

Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted.] A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He *said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

NOTES
