

THE PREREQUISITE FOR HEALING

Healing Service with Terry Clark

August 21, 2022 #5070 E L

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

Over the forty years I've been your pastor, I can't count on one hand the sermons I've repeated. Today's sermon is one of them, with revision. I repeat this sermon with unwavering purpose because surrounding the subject of healing is an often-unhealthy perspective lacking balance and an accurate explanation from ALL that the Bible has to say on the subject.

I addressed this subject of "healing" rather thoroughly in 2015 when preaching a sermon series, "Who We Are & What We Believe" (#3484), and again in 2019 (#3860) but with less detail.

Since today's service focuses on healing, I would like to briefly address the subject from a biblical perspective. This perspective is not what you see on TV or in the movies or even within our own evangelical circles, but it comes objectively, from God's word.

II. OUR TEXT

Mark 5:21-43 (NIV) PMI p 1141; LAB p 1620

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around Him while He was by the lake.

AT THIS POINT IN JESUS' MINISTRY He could not go anywhere without crowds of people following Him. In fact, the crowds were often so large that Jesus had to find strange places to preach, like from the top of a mountain or from a boat (**show picture of Jesus preaching from the boat, p2**), because, the Scriptures say, "they pressed forward to touch Him."

A. Why did they press forward to touch Him?

Listen to the words of St Matthew!



**Matthew 8:16-17
(NIV)**

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed

all the sick. **17** This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

(show picture of Jesus healing the sick)



TWO TRUTHS ABOUT HEALING FOUND IN THIS VERSE:

1) **Only Jesus had the 'gift' of healing.** It is what distinguishes Him from all men and women who have ever graced planet earth. **He was both man and God; there was NOTHING He could not do.**

2) Today the church is given **"gifts of healing"** (*1 Corinthians 12:9*). What does that mean? It means at any given time God could use you, or me, to impart healing, but not necessarily all the time. Let's look at two examples, one from Scripture the other from our platform team.

(Scripture)

St. Paul, who often administered healing to many – hankies were brought to him to anoint with oil and then were sent out and laid on people for their healing – but he was unable to heal all. If you recall, he left Trophimus sick in Miletus. That was not the case with Jesus; all who were brought to Him were healed. Therefore, this is why large crowds followed Him.

Show me a man who has the power to heal ALL, and you'd have to gate his home and set a guard around him wherever he went. He would not be able to find a moment's peace without it.

(In house)

St. Martino was in a public arena receiving a Congressional Award surrounded by complete strangers, politicians, and societies elite. He was approached by a lady who said, "I know you're here because of your contribution to cancer; I want you to

meet my mother who is terminal. After a short conversation, Martino said, "I don't know what you believe, but I know what I believe. In the name of Jesus, you are healed." On Father's Day, Martino got a text from the daughter who reported that her mother was cancer free and is to this day.

Now, if Martino thinks he can do that anytime and anyplace, guaranteed, he will embarrass himself, and more importantly, embarrass God.

B. Back to our text

²² Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at His feet ²³ and pleaded earnestly with Him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around Him.

²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

HAVE WE NOT ALL BEEN THERE? Friends who have been diagnosed with terminal diseases, going out of the country receiving experimental treatments, trying everything possible looking for a miracle, spending every dime they have and then some. Often, like this lady, to no avail. (I could name them – people I've loved dearly.)

Reluctantly, we find ourselves saying, “God had a different plan.”

²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹



Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. (show picture)

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched My clothes?"

³¹ "You see the people crowding against You," His disciples answered, "and yet You can ask, 'Who touched Me?'"

WE CAN READ A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE 100 TIMES AND GET THE SAME MEANING. But when we have read it for the 101st time, it has new meaning. I recall the time I read this and I saw it in a different setting. I pictured the disciples surrounding Jesus wherever He went, “dropping His name.” You know what I mean ... you’re talking to someone and he/she says to you, “I am really good friends, really good friends, with Franklin Graham.” Or maybe it’s Steven Furtick. Or maybe it’s Tom Brady or maybe it’s Patrick Mahomes. Or maybe it’s Leonardo DeCaprio or Scarlett Johansson. Or maybe it’s Billie Eilish

or Kendrick Lamar. Or maybe it's ... Terry Clark 😊. You get the picture. I mean ... **if Jesus had a Twitter page, He'd have a billion followers, not a 100 million.**

The disciples were “big shots.” I don't mean that in a wrong way. They hung out and worked with the most renowned, most popular, most envied man on the planet, barring none.

I can hear them now! Someone is talking about the man whose shriveled hand had been healed, and Bartholomew says, “I was there! It was amazing! If you think that was amazing, you should have seen”

The Disciples were Jesus' guardians. Can't you hear them? “Come on Jesus! Look at all of these people – pushing and shoving. We're doing our best to keep You safe. We didn't see anyone do something unusual.”

But what they couldn't see was the heart and belief of a desperate woman who knew that if she could just touch the fringe of Jesus' garment she would be healed. At times the disciples (*Matthew 28:17*), but not this woman. Not this woman!

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at His feet and, trembling with fear, told Him the **whole** truth.

CUTE! Like Jesus didn't already know. Maybe He didn't. Maybe the Father had not revealed it to Him. Who knows! This we do know ... Jesus honored her desperate faith.

THE 'WHOLE' TRUTH:

- 1) Was her illness a result of a sin in her past?
- 2) Wayne Hilliard and I were discussing this in 2019. Wayne mentioned that many will come to the Altar for healing – but it will be but a band aid, because the healing needs to begin by going back to a generational sin, the cycle of which must be broken.
- 3) Healing begins by being *transparent* with God and telling Him the “whole” truth.

³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

C. The rest of the story. (Let's not forget the setting – the head elder's daughter of the church is dying; Jesus is in route to Jairus' home.)

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the Teacher any more?"

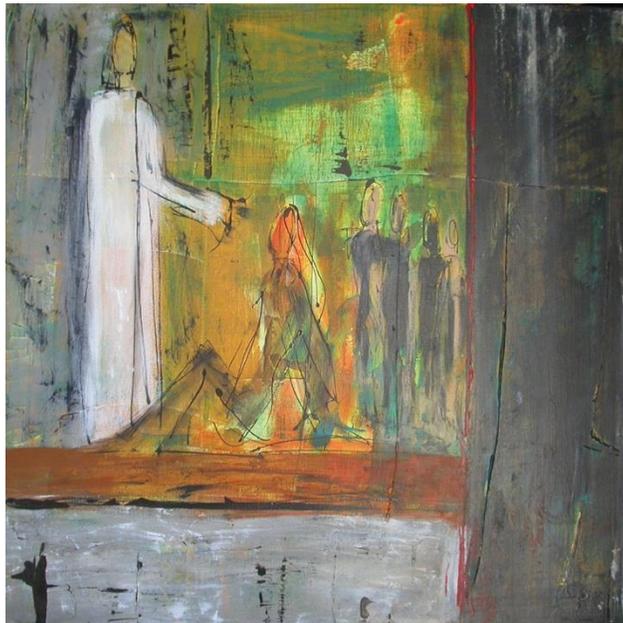
³⁶ Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." ³⁷ He did not let anyone follow Him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

POINT! Ignore the doubters. Ignore the skeptics – they bring you down. Jesus didn't remove the doubters and skeptics from the crowd, that would have been a waste of energy. He did, however, remove them from where He was going to perform the miracle. Want to see a miracle?

Put around you those who believe in miracles ... like Peter, James, and John.

³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at Him.

After He put them all out, He took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with Him (Peter, James and John), and went in where the child



was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely

astonished. [\(show photo\)](#)

II. FOR SUPERNATURAL HEALING TO TAKE PLACE WE MUST COME TO THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

A. Can God use the natural to perform the super-natural? Certainly! Modern medicine is the product of God's wealth of knowledge and wisdom bestowed upon mortal man. Eating properly and wisely, exercise—they are all ways we live in health: mental, emotional and physical.

B. Is God's timing always our timing?

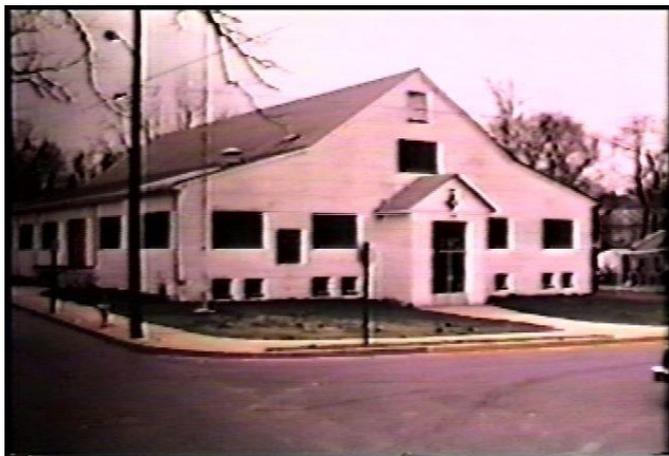


ILLUSTRATION:

We were in our early years; our campus was the Pitman Masonic Club (along with Walls School). (show photo) We held a healing

service. Lisa Formica-Shelters came forward with hands full of warts. She and the doctors had tried everything, nothing worked! We anointed Lisa with oil (as we will do today for those of you who come forward). The next week Lisa shared her testimony before the congregation – her hands were spotless.

My wife, Sheryl, was dealing with the same issue. After Lisa's testimony, Sheryl felt the LORD had spoken to her and told her to go to the Altar and request a prayer for healing. We anointed Sheryl with oil and prayed. Nothing! However, one year to the day, on that day – all of Sheryl's warts disappeared

and have not returned. GOD'S TIMING IS NOT ALWAYS OURS!

C. Why does God heal some ... as we want Him to, and others not the way we want Him to?

I don't know! But this I do know – three Biblical truths:

1. When we cross over Jordan's river, we shall know even as we are known (*1 Corinthians 13:12*).

2. Every Christian is healed whether in life or death, for the Psalmist said, He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from the grave. *Psalm 107:20*

3. You won't receive a healing touch if you don't come. In *Chapter 6* of *St Mark's* gospel, Mark tells us,

1 Jesus ... went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. ... 5 Jesus could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

- a. The Woman with the Issue of Blood came.
- b. Jairus, the synagogue ruler, came.
- c. You must come!

D. So, will you come to Jesus today?

1. Come to be saved.

2. Come to be healed.

3. Come and receive!

III. INVITATION

(People are to be asked, “Are you saved when they come to the Altar.”)

Ser5070, *“The Prerequisite for Healing”* – Healing Service with Terry Clark (Words with Invitation 2047/16 minutes)