Remnant Life Church

October 25, 2026

Healing

Pt 3

Jesus – Healer of the Blind

John 9:1-12

Over the next several weeks leading into the holidays we are going to continue our series on healing

- The Bible is filled with stories and accounts of healing
- And Jesus made healing a central part of His ministry
    - Within the 4 Gospels, they record 37 miracles performed by Jesus
    - Of those, 25 of them were the supernatural healing of the body or spirit
- I believe those same miracles of healing are active today through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit
    - A problem arose, however, through the history of the church when people rather than God began getting the credit for healings that were taking place
    - Even today there are those who have "faith healing" ministries
        - There are those that are legitimate
        - But many have been exposed as not being of God
    - And there is always the risk of elevating the person rather than the power of God
        - This is true of pastors, worship leaders, anybody up front, anybody with the slightest measure of fame
        - God's genuine power will not flow when the glory is being given anywhere except to Him
            - Several references in the Bible have God referring to Himself as a jealous God
            - Meaning He has no rival, no equal and desires all of our devotion and praise

The need for healing became necessary when sin entered the world

- It corrupted our hearts, our minds, our emotions, and our bodies
- What it corrupted most however, was our relationship with God
- And it is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we can be healed within the purpose and will of God

The view of sickness and disease changed when Jesus came

- In the OT it was the punishment of man's sin and disobedience
    - Disease and infirmity were always viewed as the result of sinful behavior
- But when Jesus came the focus changed
    - He came for the express purpose of reestablishing the relationship between God and man
    - That meant dealing with the problem of sin
    - And therefore, addressing the issue of sickness in our hearts, minds and bodies
- Yet we have come to understand that God does allow sickness and disease
    - It is the byproduct of a fallen world

- And it is in those situations that our faith can be increased, as well as our patience, and it provides opportunities for us to demonstrate the power of God's presence in our lives even in the midst of the physical, mental and emotional storms

READ – John 9:1-12

Setting

- Jesus in Jerusalem the same place the cleansing of the temple (chap 2) and the healing of the lame man (chap 5) took place
  - The healing of the lame man in chapter 5 closely parallels this healing
    - The lame man is healed by the pool of Bethesda (5:2); the blind man at the Pool of Siloam (9:7)
    - In both men the circumstances of their infirmities duration is extensive – the lame man for 38 years (5:5); the blind man since birth (9:1)
    - Both healings take place on the Sabbath (5:9; 9:14)
- Of course Jesus had healed others from blindness in the NT
  - Matt 9:27-31 – healing of 2 blind men
  - Matt 12:22-23 – blind and mute man possessed by a demon
  - Mk 8: 22-26 – healing of a blind man in Bethsaida
  - Lk 18:35-43 – healing of 2 blind men near Jericho (including Bartimaeus)
- In John's account however, this healing is presented not only to show Jesus' compassion and power, but also as a symbolism of spiritual darkness and light
  - Those who were spiritually blind and in darkness as represented by the Pharisees who were more concerned with obeying the letter of the law
  - Those with spiritual sight like this man who could now only physically see but knew that something miraculous had happened to him regardless of what the Pharisees were saying

<u>Segment 1 - verses 1-5</u>

- We begin with Jesus and His disciples who are simply traveling from one place to another
  - God is always at work in our lives and the lives of others regardless of where we are or what we are doing
  - We need to always be ready
    - I have been blessed with many opportunities to minister to people when it had nothing to do with Sunday or RLC
    - Softball fields, doctor's offices, weddings, funerals, even the grocery store
    - But you must be watching, ready, and willing
- (vv 1-2) In these first verses, the disciples assume in their question, like most Palestinian Jews of that day, that sin and the suffering of sickness or infirmity are intimately connected
  - The Rabbis of the day argued and taught that there was no death without sin (Ez 18:20 – *The one who sins is the one who will die…*)
  - And there was no suffering without guilt (Ps 89:32 – *I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging*)

- Where this thinking went wrong was taking the generalization of sin as the birth of mankind's struggles and applying it to the issue of the suffering of an individual due to their circumstances
    - We see this presented in what Paul writes in Gal 4:13 – *Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*
        - Paul took what he was struggling with as a lesson from God with a divine purpose, not from sinful acts he had committed
    - And of course, the book of Job is the story of a righteous man who was tested by satan – with God's permission!
- In their question, the disciples were holding to the teaching of their religious leaders even with regard to someone born blind
    - In their minds, to be born blind meant either the child sinned in the womb (something they actually regarded as possible)
    - Or the parents had sinned
        - For example, in that day if a pregnant women worshipped at a pagan temple, her unborn child was also viewed as having participated in the activity as well
- And in this way, the disciples are no better than Job's 3 miserable friends who came to being him "comfort"

- But in v 3 Jesus immediately dispels that erroneous teaching and further separates Himself from the religious thinking of the day
    - Healing on the Sabbath and, in the case of the lame man, telling him to carry his mat both were in direct violation of the OT testament law of doing no work on the Sabbath
        - Jesus utilized the healing of these men to demonstrate that God did not love them only because of the law
        - But that God loved them in a way that looked beyond the actions into the heart of the individual
        - He loves you today in a way that is impossible for us to understand
- (v 4) *…we must do the work of Him who sent Me…*
    - In saying this, Jesus is continuing to emphasize the exclusiveness of His ministry as Messiah
        - Jesus had not come to endorse the work of the religious leaders
        - Yes, He came to fulfill the law of Moses, but also to bring a new way of living that did not focus on what was done, but on the condition of the heart
- (v 5) – Jesus also provides a sense of urgency in the work of His Father
    - *…as long as it is day* – in other words, while Jesus is with them because He is the light of the world
    - He then tells them, *night comes when no one can work…*
        - Those who only knew Jesus in the physical way would once again be engulfed by the darkness of the world when He left
        - But God would provide a light to come for those who knew Him in their hearts

            - One who would come in His place and would shine within each heart for the work to continue
            - The Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
    - Jesus is teaching His disciples, not only a new theology, but how to know the difference between spiritual light and spiritual darkness

Segment 2 – verses 6-12

- (v 6) Jesus then physically demonstrates what He has just said by what He does next – He heals the man born blind
    - The method He used to do this was unusual but not completely unique or isolated
        - Mark 7 – Jesus healed a deaf and dumb man by using his saliva
        - Mark 8 – He healed another blind man in the same way
    - Why is this event in John 9 significant?
        - IOW – why did He do it in this way?
            - There is not one clear explanation
        - Scholars have made several conjectures…
            - There is the easily applied association with creation in Genesis since man is made from the dust or dirt of the earth, Jesus used a little bit of the original material to make new eyes or the man
            - A second thought is that the use of the mudpack applied over the already blind eyes served to increase the intensity of the infirmity in order to magnify the power of God in the cure
                - Similar to the way Elijah poured the 12 large jars of water on the altar at Mt. Carmel (I Kings 18:33-35)
        - But there is a third possibility that's purpose would closely align with what Jesus had been saying
            - In that day, human bodily fluids were used exclusively in pagan rituals
            - Perhaps Jesus is yet again digging into the Jewish leader's taboos and the excessive verbal laws they had wrapped around the people
            - Saliva would never be tolerated by the religious leaders as something from God used to heal
            - Jesus continues to pull back the legal, religious, and cultural curtain allowing the people to see something they have never focused on before – the unconditional love of the Father through His Son
- (v 7) While we may not know for sure about the saliva, we do know about the pool of Siloam where Jesus tells the man to go wash –
    - The word Siloam means "sent"
    - This pool has as its source a channel which carries (or sends) water from the spring of the Gihon River in the Kidron Valley
        - Does the name of that spring sound familiar?
        - It is one of the 4 headwaters that divided out of the river that ran through the Garden of Eden
            - The Pishon, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates (Gen 2:10-14)

    - The name of the pool even aptly describes Jesus as He says of Himself in John 8:42, *I have not come on my own; God sent me.*
    - We know that the feasts interwoven through John's writing, specifically the Feast of Tabernacles, the waters used are drawn from the Pool of Siloam
    - And so, the One who was sent, sends the man to be healed physically just as Jesus was sent to heal the world spiritually.
- (vv 8-12) The man now returns dramatically different because, as he declared, he can now see and everything in his life has now changed
    - You see, in that day, begging was a blind man's only source of support
        - They usually gathered in the same places, among the same people
    - His neighbors are understandably interested, confused, and bewildered
    - And like the Pharisees, who are about to enter the narrative, the neighbors are divided on what has happened
        - Isn't that the same man? (9:8)
        - No, it only looks like him! (9:9)
        - The man then begins to very accurately describe what has happened
        - He identifies Jesus as the one who healed Him (9:11)

The miracle of this healing demonstrates the focus of Jesus in a way that went against the focus of the religious leaders

- The Pharisees and spiritual leaders of that day considered themselves the guardians of the law of Moses
- Nothing was more important to them than ensuring that every directive was followed to the letter
    - But because of the darkness in their hearts, they perverted the law and made it into something that God never intended
- Jesus came and said, in essence, making sure the people follow the law is fine, but why you are doing it is not of my Father

The healing ministry of Jesus always accomplished much more than what could be seen

- Jesus showed the people His Father's love by healing their bodies
- But He cared even more about the healing of their hearts and spirits

God is still healing today

- Perhaps you have been on the receiving end of one of those healings
- Perhaps you have prayed for someone else to be healed

And so be alert, be watchful and be ready to serve God as a vehicle of His healing

- That may mean you will pray over someone who is sick
- It may mean you will offer a comforting or loving word
- It may even mean you will pray with someone to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior

But never forget it is God in the person of Holy Spirit working in and through you

- To show and demonstrate His love
- To glorify His name and accomplish His perfect will
- What a blessing, what a privilege that is to be an instrument of His work