

COMPASSION AND HEALING

Introduction: compassion moves people to action

- ILLUSTRATION: Support for Ukraine
- Jesus wept:
 - Over Lazarus' death, even though He knew He would raise Lazarus again
 - Over Jerusalem because He was the coming destruction.
 - Many Christians were saved in 70AD because they heard and heeded Jesus' words in Matthew 24: "Flee to the mountain" when you see the temple attacked. (24:15)
- Jesus has compassion for you and your situation.

1. The Power of Choice

- Humanity always has a choice:
 - Two trees in Genesis 2:9
 - Tree of life
 - Tree of knowledge of good and evil
 - Result of this choice:
 - Spiritual death
 - Physical / emotional pain and ultimate death (Genesis 3:17-19)

ILLUSTRATION (Judas Iscariot)

John 12:4-6 *But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."*

He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

- If the apostle John knew, then Jesus also knew – so why was he in charge of the money?
 - Jesus was giving him time to repent.

John 13:2 *The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus....*

- Devil prompted Judas to betray
 - The thieving left him open for manipulation by evil

John 13:27 *As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "what you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him....*

- It may be that you have been caught up in immorality, occult, emotional upheaval, drug abuse... but the good news is....

1 Peter 2:24-25 *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 have been healed.*

2. Lifestyle is a Choice

(a) To live for righteousness is a choice.

- When you were born again, you tapped into the source of life: Jesus.
 - There is ongoing work of healing / restoration going on your life
 - Does this happen in physical realm as well as spiritual?
- Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit to give the church the power to live and demonstrate the love of Jesus.
 - ALL spirit-filled believers have the authority and privilege to pray for the sick.
 - Some are used more in this area than others.
 - Jesus sent out his disciples and said, "heal the sick!"
 - The early church did the same.



(b) To Live for Righteousness means to live in the tension of the now and the promise of the future.

- Sickness can be stress / work related.

ILLUSTRATION: Epaphroditus.

Philippians 2:27a, 30 *Indeed he [Epaphroditus] was ill, and almost died...because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.*

- Take steps to ease your workload
- Take medication when required

1 Timothy 5:23 *Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses...*

- God can use every situation.

Galatians 4:13-14 *As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt of scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself....*

3. Do you Want to be Well?

(a) Timing

ILLUSTRATION: crippled beggar (Acts 3)

- Peter and John went past this beggar many times
 - This time was his moment

(b) Gradual healing

Mark 8:23-25 *He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."*

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

(c) Misplaced Faith: (Healing by the pool)

John 5:1-15

- Man had been paralysed for 38 years

John 5:6-7 *When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”*

- Misplaced faith
- Disillusioned
- Jesus had to get his attention – “Do you WANT to get well?”

(d) **Healed by Faith:** (Man lame from birth)

Acts 14:8-10 *In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who had been lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking.*

Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk...

- Saw that he had faith

Conclusion:

- Each healing points to our ultimate healing when we see Jesus.