

If my people pray

Healing Prayer – Matthew 8:1-17 Message Reflection Guide

Our prayers for healing tend to be, “Jesus heal me because I want to serve you more, I don’t want pain, or I want to be a testimony of your faithfulness. See how much more faith I have now.”

The only possible right response is: “What ever brings You glory, Lord. I believe you can. With the absence of a firm word to the contrary, then I believe that you will. But the only reason I want to be healed is because I want to bring You glory. If something else brings You more glory, that’s ok with me. It’s not about me. It’s all about Jesus.”

The power comes from Jesus. The purpose is to bring glory to Jesus. It is not to meet my needs, to make me feel better, or relieve me of my pain, although that is a nice side benefit. The disciples with Jesus encountered a blind man (John 9). One of the disciples asked, “Who sinned—the man or his parents.” Jesus explained that neither the man nor His parents had sinned but “this had happened so that the work of God would be displayed in his life.”

Healing is all about glorifying Jesus. It’s not about us. It’s all about Him!

Conversation Starter

When you get sick (cold or flu) what do you like to do or what comforts you during the illness?

Getting Into The Scriptures

Read aloud Matthew 8:1-17

Pastor Jason said “Jesus is a healing God who delights in healing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of His people.” Have you had an experience where you feel you were healed through prayer? What happened?

Praying for healing is an act of worship. The leper knelt before Jesus while asking for healing. What did that action reveal about the leper’s heart? How do we glorify God when we pray for healing?

Praying for healing is an act of faith. What role does medicine play in healing? Do you believe God can work through medicine (or medical intervention)? Is it easier for you to rely on medicine than healing from God? Why so?

Praying for healing is an act of seeking the fulfillment of prophecy. Scripture is loaded with prophecy that has been fulfilled. What does that tell you about Christ’s character or nature?

How does this teaching about healing fit within your overall perspective on discipleship? That is, how does this teaching on healing relate to other doctrine we believe like the sovereignty of God and the call to love one another (love audaciously)?

Making It Real

Are you seeking God for healing in your life? What do you need healing for? Have you been healed in the past? Who can you share that testimony with this week? Is there someone in your life who is suffering and in need of healing? How can you pray for them?