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J. W. Spedling - Tyler

Prayer Meeting Address given by our Pastor

on June 18. 1974.

Lesson. Matthew 12. vv. 14-21.

The word is, "and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all." Matthew 12. 15.

Very briefly, there are two wonderful facets of divine healing I wish to present to this congregation to night. First let us postulate the truth we believe, the holy doctrine that in Christ a rich fulness dwells of all power, grace, love, mercy, goodness. The power is sealed apart from another power; that is, the power of faith. We can speak of the holy initial of regeneration, but I am thinking of the method of grace in the living family of God. The fulness is sealed apart from the Holy Ghost working, exercising, making active the power of faith in the soul of a poor sinner. So you might have Christ next to you: if there is no faith nothing is done. You might touch Him with your shoulder when He was here: apart from faith there is no effect. So it is His gracious method to give to quickened people the powerful, efficacious, beautiful grace as an instrument to salvation, holy faith. That is why we read; "and he healed them all."

Faith. Christ is aware of it wherever it is. He is aware of it and faith affects Him. The Son of God is affected by the faith of any child of God, a needy sinner. He perceives it with His eyes; He hears it with His ears; He smells it, and it penetrates His heart. And it pleases Him; it liberates every blessing in His rich fulness as an instrument. He cannot say No to faith. Think of this amazing thing! "His name," said the apostle, "through faith in his name hath made this man strong." It is His Name, full of power and efficacy, but "through faith in his name hath made this man strong." (Acts 3.16) O wonderful grace a wonderful Saviour has given!

So this creates an atmosphere where Jesus moves and performs all His mighty works. If the atmosphere is filled with unbelief He does not many mighty works. So do you and I possess faith?

I will name some of the manifestations and characteristics of faith. It gives to a child of God what we may call a homing instinct: it homes you to Christ. I have often thought of the birds who fly away after the summer thousands of miles, yet they come back to the same spot where they built their nest the year before. It is amazing, and faith always homes you to Christ.

When you come to Christ how does faith act? In various ways. It is active: it may be silent. The emaciated woman made no sound. She came and touched Him; she did not speak, she just touched Him, and immediately Christ released every healing virtue, not just for her body; for her person,- body, soul, and spirit. Take the four who carried the man with paralysis. They went up the outside steps, made a hole in the roof and let him down. No one said anything, according to the record. The man did not; he was completely paralysed: and the four did not say anything; they just let him down. "And Jesus seeing their faith," (Matt,9.2) It is faith. There are times when it is vociferous, articulate, and vehement. "He cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." Luke 18.39) O the wonder of faith!

If you have got faith you will come, and you may touch Him and not say a word; but you will afterwards. "Who touched me?...Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me." (Luke 8.45-46) This is healing. The only time we read concerning the paralysed man and the four that any spoke was that he went to his house glorifying God because of healing. "Son, - adoption. "Daughter," to the erstwhile emaciated woman. "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

What is healing? It is complete. The soul is healed, your sins are forgiven, you are completely healed. Remember, "Jesus heals the broken-hearted....Tis His stripes that healeth thee." (759) "With his stripes we are healed." (Isa.53.5) He healed their bodies. There was no trace of affliction, malady or disease remaining. They were perfectly healed. He healed their minds of a lack of balance, wounds, and distresses, desolations and depressions. Healing was complete. The Lord liveth; Jesus reigns. He still heals. The Lord bless you to come to Him by faith and to be healed. Amen.