

Sermon Outline October 28, 2012

“Touching the Untouchable; Forgiving the Unforgiveable”

Luke 5:12-26

We live in a world filled with sickness and death. This is so much the case that many people believe it never was otherwise. People who believe in evolution believe sickness and death to be natural and normal. Such people divorce sickness from sin, morality, religion and especially from any cure which might come from Biblical Christianity! Yet, as Christians we believe sickness and death came into this world with sin and they will LEAVE / BE GONE when sin is fully dealt with!

We, though many of us are (or have been) sick, have HOPE of a real and final cure -

⁴ "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4 NKJ)

I. Jesus Christ came into our world to heal our diseases, to SAVE us from SIN –

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

1. This is evident from the wonderful healing miracles He performed -

A. Leprosy -

And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on *his* face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ¹³ Then He put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him.

- *A skin disease*
- *Hansen's disease / no pain / a picture of sin*

B. Paralysis -

¹⁸ Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹ And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up

on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²² But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³ "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk ' ? ²⁴ "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins "-- He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." ²⁵ Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. ²⁶ And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" (Luke 5:12-26 NKJ)

2. Note about these miracles / healings they are discussed in relation to cleansing / forgiveness of sin

"I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him.

"Man, your sins are forgiven you."

3. We have to connect SICKNESS to SIN or we will never realize an ULTIMATE CURE –

A. Note the Jews of Jesus' day did this, priests were treated like doctors, offerings were made to God –

¹⁴ And He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded." (Luke 5:14 NKJ)

B. In cases of sickness, elders were to be sought for special prayer –

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14 NKJ)

C. Note, Jesus' first words to the paralytic were "Man, your sins are forgiven you" SIN, is at the heart of all the pains, sufferings and difficulties in this world!

II. If Jesus Christ came to save us from sin and to heal us, why are we (Christians) NOT completely healed and sinless?

1. *Sometimes there is a lack of faith –*
⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 13:58 NKJ)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* (James 1:5-8 NKJ)

2. *Yet it is wrong to make FAITH more important than Christ, we need faith in Christ, not faith in faith –*
Jesus healed many people and yet none of those are still alive in this world today ...

The health, wealth and prosperity gospel is wrong in that it makes healing, earthly health, earthly wealth out to be ultimate good.

3. *Yet, the ultimate “GOOD” is to be like Christ –*

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)

God sometimes allows sickness, calamity, even persecution of His own people for an ultimate, Higher Good –

What good you may ask can come out of sickness?

A. *It reminds us of death and judgment –*
For the wages of sin is death...Romans 6:23

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrew 9:27 NKJ)

B. *Like death, because it reminds us of death, It makes us think seriously –*
Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of

feasting, for that *is* the end of all men; and the living will take *it* to heart.³
Sorrow *is* better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. (Ecclesiastes 7:2-3 NKJ)

C. *Sickness will bring a godly person to their knees in prayer –*

NKJ Isaiah 38:1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."² Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD,³ and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what is good* in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
(Isaiah 38:1-3 NKJ)

D. *Sickness humbles us, makes us feel our weakness and dependence upon God –*

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2Corinthians 12:7-9 NKJ)

III. *We who are Christ's will all ultimately be healed –*

⁴² So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.*⁴³ *It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.*⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made of dust*; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.*⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the *man of dust*, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*. (1Corinthians 15:42-49 NKJ)

“When I get to Heaven, I shall see three wonders there: the first wonder will be to see many people there whom I did not expect to see; the second will be to miss many people whom I did expect to see; and the third and greatest wonder of all will be to find myself there.”

John Newton – author of Amazing Grace

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