**“JESUS - THE HEALER”**

**TEXT:** Luke 7:22

**INTRO:**

1. The writers of the New Testament didn’t specifically give this name to our Savior, but it is likely that He was called “THE HEALER” by many of His day and if not actually called that was certainly famous for His supernatural ability to heal.
2. In the Old Testament the Lord was known as Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord Who heals but His healing was based upon the obedience of the children of Israel.

*Ex. 15:26*

*26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.*

 \*When Jesus ministered in Palestine, the Jews had forfeited their right to healing and blessing thru their disobedience. Now the formula for healing had changed. Jesus said: “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mk. 9:23 - Faith in Him and His power was always the New Testament prerequisite for healing (not necessarily the faith of the one being healed, e.g., the man let down thru the roof by four other men, whose faith Jesus commended).

**TRANS:** We want to look at healing in Jesus’ ministry and extend some principles to believers today. Is Jesus still “THE HEALER?”

**I. JESUS: HEALER OF BROKEN BODIES:** (HIS GLORIOUS POWER)

1. Healing Then:

*Luke 4:38-40*

*38 And he arose out of the synagogue and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.*

*39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.*

*40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.*

**1.** Here are two accounts of healing in Jesus’ day; one private and one public.

**2.** Faith in the first instance was initiated by the “they” in v.38

**3.** Faith in the second instance was initiated by the “they” in v.40.

**4.** In neither case was healing withheld on the basis of a lack of faith on the part of those who were ailing.

**ILLUS:** This is the opposite of what “faith healers” claim today! They say if you don’t get healed it is because of your lack of faith. What a spectacular scene this was: the sun was setting, but another Sun was rising w/healing in His wings (Mal. 4:2). No shouting, no theatrics, no emotional displays, no one being “slain in the Spirit” or “dancing in the Spirit.”

 There were no “misfires” - everyone who needed healing got healed! His healing was permanent; the people didn’t go home and have a relapse in 2 weeks!

**5.** The purpose for Jesus’ healing ministry was so the Jews would believe He was the prophesied Messiah.

*Acts 2:22*

*22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

1. Healing Today:

**1.** Since Jesus has already been established as the Savior, He no longer must prove Himself thru healing miracles.

**2.** There is a marked absence of requests for healing in the New Testament epistles for disciples and Christians; the emphasis is on the spiritual not the physical.

**3.** This does not eliminate healing thru medicine, physicians, or direct answer to prayer, it simply places it in biblical perspective.

**ILLUS:** God expects us to use every resource He has provided; physical and spiritual. A person who shuts himself in a dark room and says he wants God to reveal Himself to him by supernaturally making sunshine in the room, is a fool. As someone said: “Let us not seek manna from heaven, if we can get bread from the bakery.”

**4.** There is a passage in James 5 which speaks directly to spiritual means of healing.

*James 5:13-16*

*13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*

*14 Is any sick among you? 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:*

*15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

*16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

* The “elders” (leaders, specifically pastors) are called for. V.14
* They are called in for spiritual help (prayer) and physical help (anointing with oil). v.14

**ILLUS:** The word used for “anoint” here is not that used for a religious or ceremonial anointing (chrios), but the word used for medicinal or therapeutic anointing (aliepho). We ever speak of “anointing” a machine with oil, neither can we use the symbolic ceremonial term for this application of oil for the relief of physical pain. The oil is not symbolic, it is simply medicinal. The good Samaritan was not a doctor, but he used oil to relieve the suffering of the one he found beaten and half dead on the road. Then oil was the universal remedy, today we use antibiotics, surgery, etc. The context of the passage speaks of one who is sick because of personal sin. v.15,16

**II. JESUS: HEALER OF BROKEN HEARTS:** (HIS GRACIOUS PURPOSE)

1. Wounded Lives:

**1.** In John 8:1-11 is the story of the healing of a broken life.

**2.** In Jesus final statement to the woman taken in adultery are those wonder words: “Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.”

**3.** Obviously Jesus wanted her to concentrate more on her future than on her past failures.

1. Wounded Consciences:

**1.** Often people focus on their past sins and says they accept Christ’s forgiveness, but they live in misery because they haven’t forgiven themselves.

**2.** When the Lord forgives, He forgets.

*Micah 7:19*

*19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

**3.** Some seem to prefer misery to victory!

**4.** Some seem to be intent on salvaging what God has buried.

**III. JESUS: HEALER OF BROKEN HOMES:** (HIS GREAT PLEASURE)

1. Household Salvation:

*Acts 16:14-15*

*14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

*15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

**1.** Jesus alone can put broken homes together again.

**2.** He alone can reach into the home of an alcoholic, a homosexual, a drug abuser, etc. and save souls and restore relationships.

**ILLUS:** An interesting thought is that members of Paul’s family may have been saved while he was persecuting Christians. We know that he had a sister in Jerusalem.

*Acts 23:16*

*16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.*

**In Rom.16:17** Paul writes of “Junia my kinsmen…who also were in Christ before me.” If Junia was Paul’s sister she must have been dismayed when here brother was making havoc of the church and she would have undoubtedly prayed for his salvation. What a thrill it must have been when she heard the good news that he got saved.

**CONCL:** Jesus is THE HEALER of BROKEN BODIES, BROKEN HEARTS AND BROKEN HOMES. He is none other than Jehovah-Rapha, “The Lord Who Healeth Thee.”