

DID JESUS HEAL EVERYONE?

The answer to, "Did Jesus Heal Everyone?" is twofold. The short answer is "yes." The longer, is "no." First, the "yes" answer. Yes, Jesus did heal everyone. At least, all those whom He touched or directed His attention toward were healed. Many sought Him out for that very reason. Some were even in His presence without planning it. A few called out to Jesus; and some remained silent. Even after being healed, there were different responses. With many, there was an attitude of gratitude; but others responded with less thankfulness. When we come into direct contact with divinity and the presence of God, our souls and physical bodies react differently.

Healing in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, ranges from the general information of healing every disease, disability, and sickness; to specific statistics and classifications of fever, the crippled, leprosy, blindness, the deaf-mute, paralytics, and demon-possessed. Even raising the dead! The individuals ranged from children to adults; specific persons by name, while others remained nameless. But remember, there is no mention in the Bible that Jesus turned anyone away who wanted healing. He healed everyone who came to Him. I am aware of the story about the multitudes that were gathered at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15). Here Jesus picked only one to be healed - a blind and lame man - He appeared to disregard the rest (verse 3). The blind man acted on Christ's direct invitation, and He didn't know it was Jesus who healed him until later (verses 12-13).

My understanding of this passage of scripture is that all the sick people gathered at the pool were waiting for the water to move, because they believed that an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred it up. Then, the first person who stepped in got healed (verse 4).

It doesn't sound to me that anyone at the pool of Bethesda was there to get healed by Jesus. Rather, they were a bunch of superstitious sick people who were hoping for a miracle. However, Jesus has compassion on one man. Someone who could neither see, nor help himself. In fact, every time he tried to lower himself into the pool, another person stepped down before him. This must have moved Jesus into action. So He asks the man, "Do you want to be made well?" And in spite of the man's unbelief and confusion, Jesus healed him. I cannot see this as a reason to say Jesus didn't want to heal the rest.

It is similar to the situation Jesus had to address in His home town of Nazareth. Mark 6:5, "***Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.***" This verse implies that Jesus was not permitted to do any miracles because of their unbelief due to familiarity. Again, this is no reason to say that Jesus did not want to heal everyone. He did, and still does. And the requirement is still the same - come to Him believing that He is the Christ. There is no mention of any sick person, who came to Jesus in faith, that was not healed! How many times in the gospel stories do we hear these words, loud and clear, "And He healed them all?"

Let's move on to the second answer, the "no" answer. Common sense says that many in the crowds, along the highways, and in towns and villages, needed healing. As if camouflaged, and as mere spectators, many people stood and listened to Jesus for no good reason. Many remained silent and never made their needs known. Perhaps some stayed at a distance terrified of the immense Divine power in their midst. Feelings of unworthiness, even thoughts of unbelief, made them reluctant to grab a blessing. Not everyone who personally saw Jesus experienced healing.

On a timeline, during Jesus' three years of moving from location to location throughout Israel, the Bible gives the reader of the four Gospels insight into His spiritual purpose. Why did He keep moving about? As the popularity of Jesus' ministry evolved, the political fallout from the Jewish religious leaders left a residue too. Divine healing was not the Lord's only ministry. He came to teach, to preach and to heal. Sent to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God, and He being God, He was humanly present through a balanced ministry. He came to save the whole man (spirit, soul and body), and not just the physical man. A mission not always acknowledged or appreciated.

Compassion reigned in Jesus even in His final hour of physical freedom, while under intense personal pressure during His arrest in the garden of Gethsemony. Tension rose as a determined crowd consisting of soldiers, officers of the temple guard, Pharisees and elders of the people, led by Judas, carried torches and lanterns to guide their way through the darkness. During this preliminary chaos of injustice, Peter's impetuous performance of strength delivered a targeted blow with his sharp-edged sword. He cut off Malchus's right ear. The injured man, a relative and servant of the high priests, had wilfully participated in this antagonistic disturbance.

Not distracted by the crowd's weapons, Jesus admonished Peter for his reaction to the alarming situation that was unfolding. Diligent and purposeful, Jesus touched the ear of Malchus - and healed him! What an astonishing story this man lived to tell. *"I went to arrest Jesus and He healed me!"* Jesus was consistent in using a variety of methods when healing individuals. He knew what each unique person needed and responded accordingly. Jesus didn't heal everyone, but He never turned anyone away either! We can come to Him for a healing touch anytime!