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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 4:43-54

Lesson #16

Healing Signs

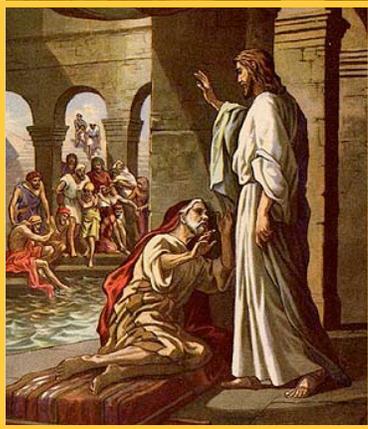
11/01/2015

Enquiring people want to know

Why don't we see psychics winning the lottery?

Why don't we see faith healers working in Christian hospitals?

Could it be that proclamation and performance are not always in line!



Healing was a big part of Jesus' ministry.

(37 in the NT)

Was it a part of pastoral care or more a Messianic credential?

Acts

| TEXT | TYPE OF | PERFORMED BY |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2:43 | Sign | The twelve |
| 3:67 | Healing | Peter & John |
| 5:12 | Sign | The twelve |
| 5:15-16 | Healing | Peter |
| 5:19 | Release from prison | Angel |
| 6:8 | Sign | Stephen |
| 8:6 | Sign | Philip |
| 9:40-41 | Resurrection | Peter |
| 12:7 | Release from prison | Angel |
| 13:11 | Blinded | Jesus |
| 14:3 | Sign | Paul & Barnabas |
| 14:9-10 | Healing | Paul |
| 16:18 | Exorcism | Paul |
| 19:11-12 | Healing & exorcism | Paul |
| 20:9-10 | Resurrection | Paul |
| 23:11 | Appearance of Christ | God |
| 27:23 | Appearance of angel | God |
| 28:5 | Immune to poison | God |
| 28:8 | Healing | Paul |
| 28:9 | Healing | Paul |

Healing was a big part of the Apostles' ministry.

Acts 2:43

"And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles."



Healing ministry is a real but controversial part of Christian ministry today.

1 Corinthians 12:28

"And God has appointed in the church . . . gifts of healings . . ."



Three signs of a fallen nature

An ingrown life
It's about ME

An outsourced problem
It's the DEVIL

A misplaced hope
It's a MIRACLE

John 4

“⁴³ And after the two days He went forth from there into Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus Himself testified that a **prophet has no honor in his own country**. ⁴⁵ So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

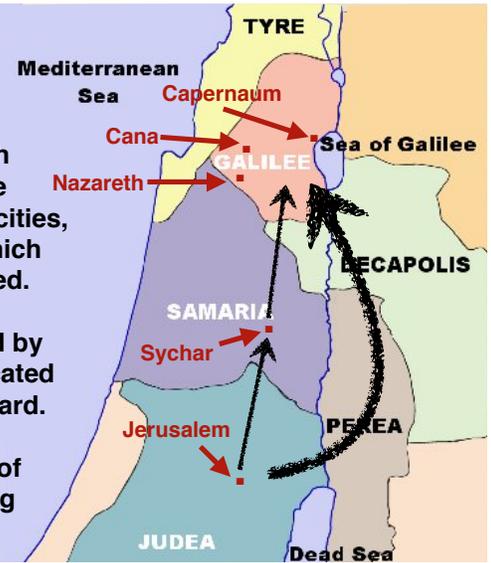
- I am not at all sure what vs.44 means in this context.
- In Matt. Mk. & Lk. it means that the people of Nazareth were not receptive to Jesus as the Christ.

Galilee is where Jesus grew up.

It contained Jewish communities in the midst of Assyrian cities, unlike Samaria, which was more integrated.

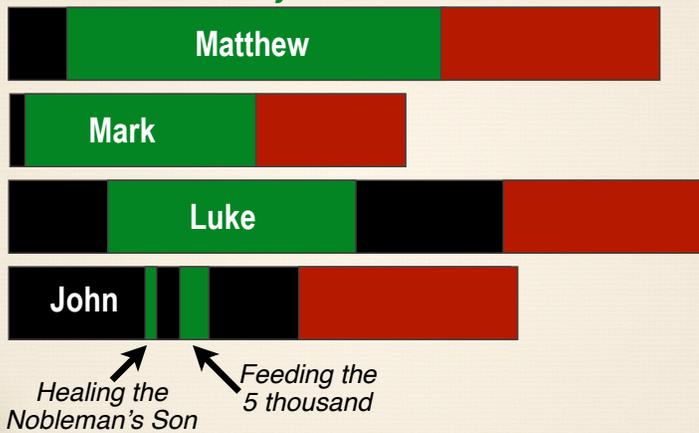
Galilee was viewed by the more sophisticated Judeans as backward.

Jesus spent most of his time ministering in Galilee.



The Great Galilean Ministry

The Passion and Resurrection



“⁴⁶ He came therefore again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain royal official, whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him, and was requesting Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ Jesus therefore said to him, “**Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.**”

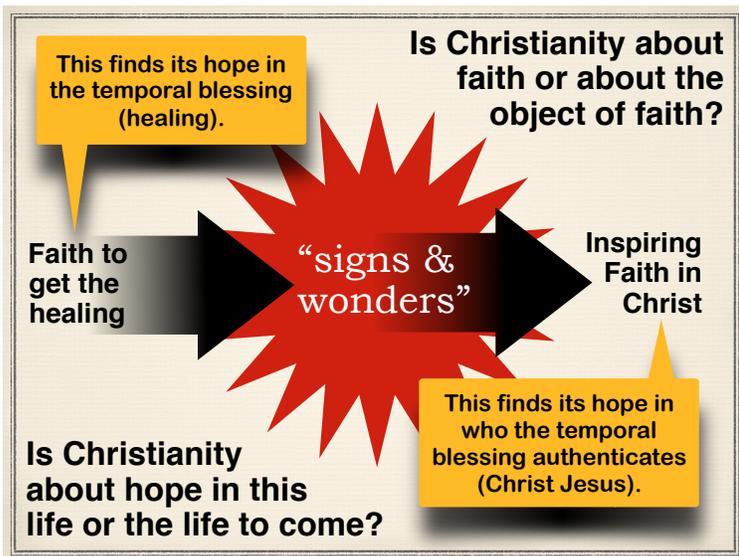
- This suggests that the people needed signs and wonders in order to believe.
- But it could mean that people believe only in order to see signs and wonders and **not for what the signs pointed to.**

“miracles” =
“signs & wonders”

- A “wonder” describes the effect of an action on those who observe it. “Wow!”
- A “sign” points to the purpose of the miracle. “Why?”
- People have often been more interested in miracles in terms of their personal benefits rather than as a sign of Jesus authority.

“⁴⁹ The royal official said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” The man **believed the word that Jesus spoke** to him, and he started off. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. ⁵² So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. They said therefore to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³ So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives”; and **he himself believed, and his whole household**. ⁵⁴ This is again a second sign that Jesus performed, when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.”

- The man asks Jesus to heal - **Jesus heals** - the man believes Jesus word - the man sees the results - the man places faith in Jesus.
- **This is the 2nd sign of Jesus' authority.**



Is Jesus a ticket to temporal blessing:

Health Wealth

through our faith?

Miracles were a sign designed to lead people to faith in Jesus as the Christ.

John 20:30-31

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,** and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 10:25

“the works that I do in My Father’s name, **these testify of Me.**”

Hebrews 2:3-4

“(The Gospel) was **confirmed** to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The **signs of a true apostle** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Luke 9:1-2

“Then He called **His twelve disciples** together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

A popular teaching on Christian Faith Healing

- ✓ Satan wants ME sick.
- ✓ God’s promises assure ME that healing is God’s will.
- ✓ God’s atoning love for ME assures MY healing.
- ✓ God’s will for healing is only limited by MY faith.

A popular teaching on Christian Faith Healing



- ✓ Satan wants **ME** sick.
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- ✓ God's will for healing is only limited by **MY** faith.

A.
Impossible events in nature -
(**resurrection from the dead**)

What is a miracle?

B.
Highly improbable events in nature -
(**instant healing through prayer**)

C.
Common events that are unnaturally timed -
(**calming a storm on command**)

D.
Anything that cannot be explained scientifically -
(**human life**)

Faith and healing are linked.

Matthew 9:28-29

Jesus asked two blind men who came to Him for healing, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened."

Matthew 9:21

"But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well."

Matthew 8:13

"Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour."

Matthew 13:58

"And He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

Mark 10:51

"And Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight ..."

1. Experience is subjective.

"Will an experience always silence a doctrine?"



- ✓ No experience comes with a built in interpretation.
- ✓ We bring presuppositions to our experiences.
- ✓ We need to critically assess our experiences.

Colossians 2:18

"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,"

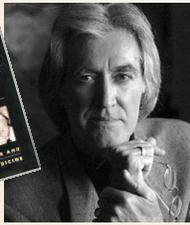
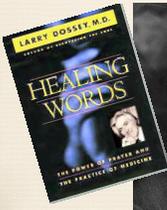
Faith healing has a broad base of testimonial support.

- **New Ager** Larry Dossey's science of prayer.
- **Psychics** like Harry Edwards.
- **Mediums** like Thomas Johanson of England.
- **Roman Catholic** icons and **saints**.
- **Pentecostals** like Oral Roberts and A. A. Allen.
- **Near Death Experience** and Tiffany Snow's (**Psychic Gifts** in the Christian Life).
- **Mind "Scientists"** like L. Ron Hubbard.

2. Some “faith healing” is natural.

Natural
healing by
faith

Miraculous
healing by
faith



Before his book *Healing Words* was published in 1993, only three U.S. medical schools had courses devoted to exploring the role of religious practice and prayer in health; currently, nearly 80 medical schools have instituted such courses, many of which utilize Dr. Dossey's works as textbooks.

3. This physical body is passing away.

1 Corinthians 15

“⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a **perishable** body, it is raised an imperishable body; 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. . . . ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, **earthy**; the second man is from heaven. . . . ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

4. Our hope is not temporal healing but bodily resurrection.

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Revelation 21:4

“And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5. A Biblical theology of death and suffering is needed.

- ✓ We will never fully escape death in this fallen world.
- ✓ Illness is a form of death therefore we escape illness only when we escape death.
- ✓ Suffering can have a redemptive purpose.
- ✓ The answer to physical death is resurrection.
- ✓ Death is the necessary doorway to God's promise of new life.
- ✓ It's not all about ME (my will, my comfort, my faith, my faithfulness, my fulfillment, etc.)

7. Face the facts.

- Are we making excuses for our lack of faith?
- Are we exaggerating our testimonies of healing?
- Are we really impressed with lengthened legs, while alzheimer's is not touched?
- Are we missing the meaning of miracles?
- Are we keeping the main thing the main thing?

