

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

90- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 1

Church March 10, 2024

Matthew 9:18-35

18 While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

19 Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples.

20 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak;

21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."

22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

23 When Jesus came into the official's house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder,

24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him.

25 But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

26 This news spread throughout all that land.

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them: "See that no one knows about this!"

31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now in the Passage that Brother Vern just read to us- Matthew leaves the amazing Teaching by Jesus about Fasting and gives us a very detailed account of three separate Miracles that Jesus performed on a man's Daughter who had just died; a sick Woman that met Jesus on the street; and two blind men. And then in verse 32- some people brought a demon-possessed man to Jesus- and in verse 33- Matthew wrote,

... the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed,

But in verse 34- the religious Leaders condemned Jesus- *blaspheming* the Holy Spirit by saying,

"He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

... even though they couldn't deny the Miracle itself.

And then Matthew ends this Section of his Gospel Record by saying,

Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

So, we have before us several Miracles of Healing that Jesus performed in the Daylight- right in front of the religious Hypocrites of His Day. And even as they could NOT deny that Jesus was, in fact, performing Miracles- they tried to "save face" by attributing Jesus Authority to satan.

But before I get into the details of this inspired and inerrant and infallible Account- I thought it wise to give an Introduction as to WHY Jesus performed Miracles- *especially* Miracles of physical Healing.

Now it is estimated that the most advanced; prosperous; and powerful Nation in the History of the World- the United States- spent about \$4.3 TRILLION

dollars on medical Care last year (2023).¹ That works out to be about \$12,914 per Person; and it represents a 10.3% INCREASE from 2022. So, by anyone's measurement- Health and physical Healing is a very- VERY important Issue to the American people.

What we have to realize is that sick and infirm people are some of the most *frightened* and *desperate* people on earth. They're sick or they're hurting in some way in their bodies; but they're not quite sure *why*. And so, they're *scared*; and many of them have become very *desperate*- looking for a Way- *any* Way to get better.

And sadly, there are wicked people in this world who are ready and willing to take advantage of those desperate; frightened; and sick people. And they have developed various pills; formulas; and tactics that promise to heal all manners of Disease; and remove the Fear and the Desperation. Yet there are many, many people who faithfully try what these people teach- but many of them *remain* sick; and they *continue* to die.

So, why is Sickness and Disease such a huge Problem? With all the Advancements we have made- why is it that everyone who is born- gets sick- *repeatedly*- during their Lifetimes? And just what is "Demon Possession"? And why do people still die?

And what are we to make of this Account by Matthew that shows us that Jesus healed Diseases; cast out Devils; and raised the Dead? Is Jesus giving us some "Formula" that we are to use today to alleviate Sickness; Suffering; and even Death? What was the Reason Matthew put this Account in his Gospel Record? I know what many people teach about these Subjects- but I want to try to find out what Matthew had in mind as he wrote this- as God the Holy Spirit "moved" on him.

So, what is the Cause of Disease; Sickness; demon Possession; as well as Death? Those are the Issues that we will explore in this Section of God's Word.

Now what the Bible teaches- is that our "original Parents", Adam and Eve- *chose* to rebel and sin against God. You see, Adam wasn't satisfied with Life in the Garden. He wasn't satisfied with "walking with God in the cool of the Day". He thought he could do things *better* than God. And so, *way before* Eve gave him the forbidden fruit- Adam became determined to rebel against God; and to change his Situation by what he could do for himself.

Now even though Eve sinned against God- she didn't share Adam's wicked Disposition. Eve sinned because she was deceived. She was fooled; tricked; led-*astray*; and snookered by satan. But Adam sinned with his eyes "wide open"; and he *willfully* rebelled against God.

¹ www.ama-assn.org/about/research/trends-health-care-spending

And this is *why*- when God cursed Adam- the entire human Race was also cursed- because we were all in the “loins of Adam” when he sinned. And that made Adam to be what theologians call, the “*Federal Head*” of us all. So, just what was the “*Divine Curse*” on Adam? **Genesis 3:17-19** says,

17 Then to Adam He [God] said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

... so, the “Divine Curse” on Adam involved several Components:

- The very dirt of the earth is now cursed; and the only Way it will be productive- is through very hard Labor
- ALL human Labor is now hindered and frustrated by Obstacles
- Human Life will be defined by sweat- even in the normal everyday Functions- like eating
- Human Life is now limited; and physical Death will eventually kill EVERYTHING

Now this Curse may seem to be a gross Overreaction to some of you. But you need to know that way before Adam *willfully* rebelled, God told him,

... “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

... so, Adam had free Access to EVERY Tree in the Garden- except one. And yet his rebellious Soul wanted the ONLY thing that God had forbidden.

Now we have no idea how long Adam and Eve enjoyed unrestricted Fellowship with God. It may have been a very *short* or a very *long* span of Time. The Bible is silent about that. But what we *do* know- is that *before* God cursed Adam- Death did NOT exist. So, NOTHING died before God cursed Adam. Neither Animals nor Plants died.

And in **Genesis 2:9**, God told Adam that,

Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food ...

... so, evidently, Adam and Eve ate a purely vegetarian diet and so, no Animals were killed to produce meat to eat.

And they were both “naked and not ashamed”- so they didn’t need the fur or the skin of Animals either. The Point is that Death- in all of its Variations was completely *non-existent* before Adam sinned and God cursed him.

But with Adam’s *willful* Sin and the subsequent Curse from God- Death has now entered into the World. And now- EVERYTHING dies. People die; Animals die; plants die; the ground dies; fish and birds die; babies die; and Galaxies and stars die. Every created thing now tastes of Death. And Moses wrote infallibly in **Genesis 6:11:**

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.

... which absolutely has to do with people hurting and killing other people. So, now War; Crime; Murder; and Injustice has entered the World.

But what is not so commonly considered is that this Violence *filtered* down to the Animals as well. And so, *part* of the Curse; or a *derivative* of the Curse on Adam was that Animals; Fish; and Birds are now violent with each other. The entire earth is now filled with Violence.

So, Death is now the one single Issue that causes all people to be equal- since *everybody* dies. So, from the standpoint of Death- all of Humanity is the same. Because the Rich die as well as the Poor. The Educated as well as uneducated people die. The People who have Connections with powerful people- also die. And people who have no such Connections- die too. People with great Talents and Abilities die; and people with no such Gifts- die. And as the Apostle Paul wrote,

Romans 5:14b

... by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one ...

... so, from Adam until now- Death *reigns*.

So, no matter who you are- you will die. Some will die very slowly; while others will die very quickly. Some will die young while others will die old. But everyone will die. The unknown writer *infallibly* wrote this in **Hebrews 9:27:**

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

... so, everyone dies. And so, the Irony of Death is this:

Death is now part of this Life

Now we try hard not to think about it. And that is much easier when you're young. But as you age- you begin to think more and more about the Reality and the Certainty of Death. But we could also make another Ironic Statement that says,

Sickness is now part of this Life

... precisely because EVERYONE gets sick and we get sick- *repeatedly*.

Before the Fall- NOBODY got sick. But now- EVERYONE gets sick. And, in spite of all the "Cures"; and all the "Medicine"; and all the "Surgeries"; and all the "Diets"; and all the "Helps"- EVERYBODY gets sick- *repeatedly*- during their Lifetimes; and EVERYBODY dies.

But what we also need to understand is that saved people get sick; and saved people die, too. Some of the most godly and holy and righteous people, who ever walked this earth- died. And some of them suffered horribly with Sickness- before they died.

For example, it is thought that the great Reformer, John Calvin had stomach Cancer. According to the Hungarian theologian, Alexandre Ganoczy,

"He [Calvin] was in constant pain: headaches, insomnia, shortness of breath (probably due to advanced tuberculosis), coughing fits, hemorrhages, fevers, colitis, kidney stones, hemorrhoids, and bleeding from the stomach, fever, muscle cramps, nephritis, and gout to name just a few."²

... so, Calvin was more than a Preacher and Theologian- he was a Pastor, too. And Calvin lived every day of his Life underneath the "Divine Curse" that God placed on Adam. So, he knew what it meant to suffer, and his Writings bear this out.

So, suffice it to say that Death and Disease are very serious Enemies. And every human on earth will face these Enemies at some point. But as terrible an Enemy as Death is- it is an Enemy that will finally be abolished.

The last enemy that will be abolished is death. (1Corinthians 15:26)

² <https://www.logos.com/grow/5-things-may-not-know-john-calvin/>

... yet that will NOT happen until Jesus returns to this earth. So, until Jesus comes back- Death will take every one of us – in God’s Timing.

But what is the Connection between Sickness; Disease; Viruses; and Bacteria and Death?

Sickness is Death at work in the Body

... and when you’re young; and filled with energy and vitality- Sickness usually doesn’t usually lay hold on you the Way it does when you get older.

Now it is true that *some* young people die- but the *overwhelming* majority of people who die- are older. And the overwhelming majority of them die- because of a Disease. But the majority of people on earth will suffer from Sickness *multiple times* during their Lives.

Now some of you are familiar with what is called, “*Accident Insurance*”. And that is an insurance Policy that will pay your survivors a set amount of money if you were to die from an Accident- as opposed to dying from a Disease. And this Insurance is really “dirt cheap”. Now Insurance Companies aren’t foolish- they all have Actuaries- who don’t do anything all day long but calculate the odds of Death for every age

Group and for every Reason. And the Reason Accident Insurance is cheap- is because upwards of 74% of all Deaths come by way of Sickness and NOT Accidents³.

The point I’m trying to make is that one of the most *common* things we all face as human beings- is Sickness. And, by God’s Grace, MOST Sickness is only *temporary* and is *not* fatal. But Sickness is something that we all have to learn to deal with- because it affects us all.

So, in His Mercy- God put it into the hearts of certain people to discover “Cures” and “Helps” and “Treatments” for Diseases. And that is what is called, “*Common Grace*”. It is a form of God’s Love- to *everybody*- Saved or Lost. It is one of many Ways that our Good and Merciful God shows His Love to undeserving Rebels. So, in that sense- God loves *everybody*. And when you consider that no one is *worthy* of this Display of Love- it *magnifies* the Kindness of God even more.

So, no one can say that God didn’t love them. No one- not even those who live in the worst Situations imaginable- can say that God didn’t demonstrate underserved Love and Mercy and Grace to them in a thousand different Ways while they lived. And nobody in Hell can say God didn’t love them while they constantly rebelled against Him and refused to repent.

³ www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death

Now what is interesting is that “Common Grace” *causes* God’s elect to be grateful and thankful- even BEFORE they are saved. Because unlike the others, demonstrations of God’s Grace to even the Lost- humbles those chosen for Salvation; and it gives a Reason for them to celebrate each Time God showers them with this form of Grace. This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote this in **Romans 2:4**:

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

... and the “Kindness” in mind here- is any Demonstration of God’s Love when the person deserved God’s Wrath- including “Common Grace”.

Yet Common Grace will be yet another Reason the non-elect will be damned. Because they will NOT make the Connection between a Good God and the Help they received from this Grace.

But we have to understand that “Common Grace” doesn’t forgive Sin or bring Salvation to anyone. That is *another* type of God’s Love; a much *deeper* and much more *powerful* Love- that is directed to ONLY the elect. And this Love/Grace is able to sovereignly *override* the natural Rebellion in the Heart and is called, “*Saving Grace*” or “*Saving Love*”. And this is a type of God’s Love where He sovereignly *inserts* Himself into a Sinner’s Life- who has been chosen for Salvation. And through this Love- God *interrupts* all of this Sinner’s Plans; and He *imposes* His Will on him; and effectually *draws* (drags) them to Jesus- Who will save them completely.

Now early on- God’s “Common Grace” allowed people (both Lost and Saved) to develop “Remedies” for their Diseases made from roots; and leaves; and buds; and bark; and flowers; and the oil from certain plants. And that worked okay- but it wasn’t perfect. And so, many, many people still suffered from Diseases; and many died.

So, after people saw that home-grown Remedies didn’t always work; or they didn’t work on certain people- God moved on people (both Saved and Lost) to develop what we now call, “Medicine”. And that allowed even *more* people to live long enough to get married; and have Children; and start Businesses; and become Leaders in the world. But Medicine didn’t always work, either. It wasn’t perfect, and so, people still got sick and people still died.

And along with Medicine- came “Surgeries”-and even *more* people were rescued from the terrible Effects of Diseases and Sickesses. Soon, God led people to start medical Schools to train people what to do to fight the Curse of Disease- as well as what not to do. Yet people still got sick and people still died.

It is hard to believe with all the Advancements we enjoy every day in the 21st Century, but it has only been a little less than 200 years since we found out about things like Sanitation during Surgeries; and Anesthesia; and about Surgeons washing their hands before operating; and how common Cleanliness contributed to staying healthy.

For example, the Quaker, Dr. Joseph Lister's first Surgery using his new invention called, "Anesthesia" was conducted at 1pm on June 27, 1851. And it was on October 16, 1846, that Boston dentist, William T.G. Morton used "sulfuric ether" to anesthetize a man who needed to have a tumor removed from his neck. Before that- dentists pulled teeth and operated on people as they were wide awake and experiencing all the pain.

But God *continued* to love people with His Common Grace and people gradually began to understand the Concept that by eating correctly and exercising- people could live even longer and healthier Lives; and be able to build up the natural "Immune System" that God created in the human body (as another form of God's Love to undeserving Sinners) that would help them ward off Disease or make it easier to recover from it.

But it wasn't until 134 years ago, in 1890, that physiologist, Emil von Behring and a few others discovered that human beings had "Antibodies" and an "Immune System" that could be "built up" to help ward off many Diseases.⁴

So, once again, in His Mercy- God Himself made a Way to help *mitigate* the very Curse that He had imposed on wicked Sinners. But proper Diet wasn't perfect either, and so, people still got sick; and people still died.

And it wasn't long before various Governments got involved in all of this. And the Nations that got involved- saw the Life of the average person rise; while Nations that didn't do this- saw their Citizens die early and horribly from the ravages of Sickness. Yet even Government action didn't help everybody, and so, people still got sick; and people still died.

My Point is that we all have a natural, built-in- Hatred for Sickness and Disease. We despise the Pain and Misery that the Curse on Adam has brought to the World. And so, people- even wicked lost people- have dedicated their *entire* Lives to help make other people's Lives better. And this should be applauded- as it reflects the Reality that we were made in the Image and Likeness of God; and we hate Evil and Suffering and Misery *wherever* we see it.

But while we have made *amazing* strides against the ravages of Disease and Sickness- every human born of Woman still gets sick; and we get sick *repeatedly* during our Lifetimes. And people still die. *Everyone* dies. And the overwhelming majority of all Deaths are caused by Disease.

⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02840-w>

But what is NOT known very well; or what is not understood very well- is that Death came from God. Death did NOT come from Satan- as so many people think. Death came as a Punishment from God against *premeditated* Sin on the part of Adam. And that Knowledge is NOT meant to beat us down- but it IS meant to humble us- as we realize that we are all Sinners. But it is important to know that it was Adam's Sin and NOT Eve's- that brought Death into the world. Please read what the Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 5:12**:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Now this is the Passage that God used to help Augustine “hammer out” his Doctrine of “*Original Sin*”. Notice that Death came because of Sin. So, before Sin was committed- specifically Adam's Sin- there was NO Death. Death did NOT exist anywhere- until Adam sinned. And since Adam's Rebellion- “Death” is now defined in two Ways:

1. Natural, physical Death
2. Spiritual Death

... so, even though it took nearly 1,000 years for him to *physically* die- Adam died- *spiritually*- the Moment he sinned. But now look again at the end of this verse:

... and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

Everybody dies- because *everybody* sins. Okay, that's fairly Self-evident. But wait! Babies also die. Even *unborn* babies die (and I'm NOT referring to Abortion here). So, WHY do unborn babies die? They CAN'T Sin. They aren't even born yet. So, if Death comes by way of Sin and since EVERYBODY sins- how do you explain that little babies die as well as the unborn?

God used this verse to empower this “*Father of the Church*” to work out a Doctrine that says “Sin” is to be understood in two Ways:

1. Individual Thoughts; Acts; and Dispositions of the Heart that resist or work against God's Will (sometimes called, “Sins”)
2. The original Sin of Adam (sometimes called, “Sin”)

So, what does the “*Doctrine of Original Sin*” teach? It has two Parts:

1. Every human that is born after Adam has the SAME “sin Nature” that Adam had. He received that “fallen Nature” at the Moment of Conception from the Seed of the Father. So, as soon as the child is old enough to “act out” on that fallen, sinful Nature- he will
2. Every human that is born after Adam is *personally* Guilty of the Sin that Adam committed.

Now MOST people in the modern Church readily accept #1- but they have erred by adopting the Roman Catholic false Teaching that says the Child is “innocent” until he reaches the age of 12. The Bible doesn’t teach that.

But very few even know about #2. And the majority of those who do know about #2- categorically *reject* it on the Basis that it “isn’t Fair”.

Why would God hold us accountable for Adam’s Sin that happened many thousands of years ago? The Bible teaches that Adam was the “*Federal Head*” of the entire human Race. And so, God takes the “Guilt” of the Sin of Adam and “imputes” or “credits” that Guilt to every Soul born of Woman. This is what Theologians call, the “*Doctrine of Imputation*”. And there are three Examples of Imputation in the Bible:

1. God imputes the Guilt of Adam’s Sin on every child born after him
2. God imputes all of the Sins of all of God’s elect on Jesus when He was on the Cross
3. God imputes the Righteousness that Jesus earned (by living a sinless Life) on those who have experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; and who have been Justified (repented of all Sin; and trusted in Jesus and in His finished Work by Faith alone)

Now, the Reality is that NONE of these three “Imputations” is “Fair”. All three are sovereign Acts of God’s Will. So, we must be careful- because if we *reject* the 1st Imputation- we do damage to the other two- and that would leave us in our Sins.

The fact that God imputes the Guilt of Adam’s Sin on every Child born- is WHY babies and even *unborn* babies die. Death comes by Way of Sin- but the Sin that produces physical Death is NOT our own personal Sins. Our personal Sins contribute to how God will judge us *after* we die. So, personal Sins contribute to the degree of Torment and Punishment that lost people will receive in Hell. But the Original Sin of Adam produces Death (both spiritual and natural) in all Humans.

So, EVERYBODY is a “Sinner”. EVERYBODY is guilty of Sin- either their own personal Sins or the original Sin of Adam. EVERYONE has been declared by God to be a “Sinner”- NOT only when we personally commit Sins- but also at the very instant the Father’s seed makes contact with the Mother’s egg in her Womb.

So, in that sense- NOBODY is “Innocent”. EVERYBODY is a “Sinner” and EVERYBODY is *personally* “Guilty” of Adma’s Sin. And that results in two things being true:

1. We are ALL “Lost” and “spiritually Dead” and in great NEED of both Forgiveness and Righteousness.
2. We can all physically die at any time

... and Sickness and Disease- as well as Suffering; Misery; Injustice; War; Crime; and all manifestations of human Wickedness are all *derivatives* of the same Divine Curse that brought Death into existence.

So, while we will ONLY die- *physically*- one time- we may get sick *hundreds* of times during our Lives. So, Sickness and Disease are real Problems that people (both Lost and Saved) work on- all the Time. But the Cause of Sickness; the Origination of ALL Diseases as well as Death itself- is the Divine Curse that Almighty God put on ALL humans when Adam sinned.

So, this is why NO Effort by anyone to cure all Disease and Sickness works perfectly. God brought Death into existence; and only God can remove Death and finally kill it. And God has promised to do that- after Jesus returns to this earth:

The Revelation 20:14

And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, (even) the lake of fire.

So, when Jesus comes back- Death itself will die. And at that Moment- every human, who has ever been born will be given an immortal Body- and will live forever. Those who trusted in Jesus by Faith will live forever in *unimaginable* Pleasure and Happiness; while those who rebelled against Him will live forever in a devil’s Hell- in unthinkable Agony and Torment!

And so, there will be NO Accounts outstanding when Jesus comes back. EVERYTHING will be settled during their natural Life on the Cross in Salvation; or it will be settled in the Lake of Fire.

But until then- no matter how you eat or exercise; no matter what you do to try to relieve Sickness and Disease- our Flesh is going to die. And that means therefore, our Flesh is going to continue to get sick- *repeatedly*. Sickness and

Death will be a part of the Human race until Jesus finally puts an End to it- at His 2nd Coming. But until then- Sickness and its ultimate End- Death- will be with us.

So, it is important to understand that Salvation in Jesus DOES NOT END the “Divine Curse” on our Flesh! Our Souls are saved- yes! But our fleshly, natural, physical bodies are NOT redeemed- YET!

So, *whatever* temporary Mercy or Grace that God sovereignly extends to individuals on occasion and by-times- to perform Miracles of Healing- or through Common Grace- does NOT remove the Curse. ALL that Miracles of Healing and Common Grace do- is to remove individual Sicknesses or even Death from us- *temporarily*- until Sickness and Death finally wins.

But even though that is true- NONE of us welcomes Sickness or Death and EVERYBODY- saved or lost- wants to be healed when they get sick. Intellectually, everyone agrees they are going to die- but we try not to think about it; and we also are willing to do just about anything to get better when Sickness strikes.

And this ongoing Fight against Sickness and Death at is the primary Reason behind why there are so many people in the modern church who are deceived by false Teachers, who say they have found a *permanent* Relief from Sickness. And some of these people say they can overcome Death itself! But they can't- they're deceiving people. And so, they and everybody who they teach and pray for- will get sick and will die.

Beloved- we need to remember that EVERYONE that Jesus healed in the Bible got sick again! And every single one of those who received a Miracle of physical Healing in their body from the incarnate Christ Himself- died! Every single one of them! So, what Jesus did when He performed a Miracle of physical Healing on someone- was to *sovereignly* and *temporarily* “suspend” the Divine Curse of Death that is upon every person! Yet NONE of the Miracles of Healing that Jesus performed was permanent!

So, I say to you on the Authority of God's Word- the Miracles that Jesus performed- *specifically* the Miracles of physical Healing were NOT done to abolish Sickness or Death from the earth. They were NOT even done to abolish Sickness and Death from Israel. That is NOT why Jesus healed people. And while Jesus did heal many people; and healed *everybody* who came to Him- every single one of those people got sick again; and they all died. And that is because Jesus did NOT bring to a final End the Divine Curse that God placed on ALL Mankind.

Now I am NOT *minimizing* what Jesus did. Every Healing was a genuine Miracle. And they were all astounding! And we still praise and worship Jesus today for what He did- 2,000 years ago! And the Holy Bible teaches us that we should also pray for the Sick; and we should pray believing and hoping that God may perform a Miracle of Healing- if that is His Will.

But if not- then we pray that the sick person's Faith will not fail; and that God will give him the Grace to "suffer well"- to the Glory of God. And if God so chooses- that they will "die well"- to God's Glory!

What I am saying, dear friends, is the REASON behind the Miracles of Jesus is grossly *misunderstood* by a large section of people who attend the modern Church. And as a result- tens of thousands of false Teachers have risen up- who go around taking advantage of the most desperate people on earth. And that is EVIL!

So, *why* did Jesus perform Miracles of Healing during His earthly Ministry? To give *indisputable* Proof that He was God! To demonstrate to the Jews that He was the promised Messiah- through His absolute Authority over Disease; Disabilities; and even Death itself! And that means that Jesus has the Authority to forgive Sin- and we can go to Him- in Faith- and cry to Him to forgive us of Sin and He will save us to the uttermost!

But these Miracles are in the Bible as Demonstrations of what the Kingdom of Heaven would look like when Jesus comes back! The unknown writer *infallibly* said this in **Hebrews 2: 3&4**:

3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

So, the Reason the Apostles had the Ability to heal all manner of Diseases and to raise the Dead was to give "*Divine Credibility*" to the *radical* Teaching of the New Covenant!

Now I realize that all that some people will hear what I just said and say, "*Well, Brother Blair doesn't believe in Miracles!*" Or, "*Brother Blair doesn't think people still get healed today!*" (even though I have been healed); or, "*Brother Blair thinks that God somehow lost His Power!*" But the Reality is that *none* of that is true. I haven't said that; and I don't believe that.

What I believe- in fact- what I *know* to be true- is that the overwhelming majority of people who get sick; and who are prayed for by these shysters- do NOT receive a Miracle of Healing! And that's because Miracles of Healing are rare. That's one reason they are so amazing. But Miracles of Healing have ALWAYS been rare. And they will ALWAYS be rare- until Jesus comes back and kills Death!

Miracles of Healing were almost *non-existent* in the first five Books of Moses. But there was a "Season of Miracles" during the Ministries of both Elijah and Elisha- where Miracles abounded. But then they died down again- until the Ministry of Jesus and the Apostles- where the greatest explosion of Miracles

occurred. But then toward the completion of the 27 Books of the New Testament- Miracles- *especially* Miracles of Healing went dormant again.

Now I do NOT know if this is true- but it MAY be- that just before Jesus comes back- there will be another great explosion of Miracles to pave the Way for the Return of our Lord! But that would mean that the Church is not going to leave the earth until Jesus comes back- and most people today don't believe that.

The bottom line is that God can do whatever He chooses to do. And God can and does heal sick bodies. But God has already told us that Death is NOT going to be removed from the earth until Jesus comes back. And since Sickness is "Death at work in the body"- that also means that Sickness is going to be with us until the 2nd Coming as well. And so, whereas God may choose to mercifully suspend the divine Curse and heal individuals at various times for various reasons- people; all people; even God's people will *continue* to get sick; and we will *continue* to die.

So, why did Matthew put this Account in the Bible? What is going on here in this Section of God's Word- is that Jesus is proving to both the *believing* Jews as well as the *unbelieving* ones- that He is God Almighty in human Flesh; and that He has absolute Authority over Disease; Disabilities; and even Death itself!

And so, the Reason Matthew put this in His Gospel Record- was to convince his fellow-Jews that the Old Covenant has come to an End; the New Covenant has now been birthed on the earth; and that Jesus is the long -awaited Messiah- that they should come to for Forgiveness and Righteousness! And that is why everyone should love Jesus and honor and worship and obey Him- with great Joy!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.