

HEALING MINISTRY of the CHURCH -

(Notes) (Luke 8:40-42, v49-56 / Acts 9:36-43.)

“The Charter of the Gospel”

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor....”

Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power...”

No one doubts that Jesus' ministry was accompanied by signs and wonders; but they do question how much the church should expect that ministry to continue today.

Preaching, healing and deliverance demonstrated the Kingdom of God breaking into the present.

There are two questions that need to be answered if the Church is going to fulfil its call to preach the gospel and heal the sick.

a) Those who say these works of healing were to get the early church off the ground - for a dispensation.

“These gifts were to authenticate the Apostles as the agents of God in founding the church. Thus they were confined to the Apostolic church and they necessarily passed away with the Apostles.” JB Warfield

That simply doesn't hold water - the Acts of the Apostles and the early church show that Jesus' ministry of the Kingdom continued in history through the church.

b) Those who say Jesus healed because he was the son of God, but we are not like Jesus.

If true the ministry of Jesus would be history, looking back, not a continuing story.

Answer to this falsehood is **yes** Jesus was truly God and truly man. **BUT** as Paul says, in Phil 2:6, “He laid aside divinity, He emptied himself,” He ministered as a man but through the power of the HS

THE SOURCE OF JESUS’ MINISTRY!

1. Jesus at his baptism was anointed with the HS.

empowered to fulfil the ministry of the Kingdom.

Before his Baptism he did nothing. No preach, heal...

His ministry flowed out of his being empowered by the HS. Tested in the wilderness & came out full of the HS.

2. Jesus heals the sick! Luke 4:18, Mt 8:1, John 5:19.

“When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom, he was not telling a new story, that was seen in the OT, but he was speaking of a new moment in the same story.”

3. Jesus commissions his disciples to heal.

MT 10, Luke 9 & 10, Mt 28:18

Notice what Jesus did - He modelled healing to them.

A Rabbi teaches all he knows so they can continue the work.

‘I do, you watch’ - they learned by watching him.

Luke 8:54, Acts 9:40, Jairus’ daughter / Dorcas.

Peter copies what he has seen Jesus do!

‘You do, I watch’

Mt. 14:18, Feeding 5000; 14:29, Walking on water

‘Sent out to do it on their own’

Mt.10:1-8, Luke 9 & 10, Mission of 12 & 70

Returned with joy - happened through their hands.

'Taught them when they got it wrong'

Mt.17:14-21, demonised boy disciples couldn't heal.

'Because of your little faith...'

Left them doing it' -

After Pentecost they begin to do the works of Jesus.

Acts 3 / Peter heals lame beggar, parallel with John 5:11.

Paul's advice to the Church in James 5:14-15 - pray, anoint..

Is there a conflict between Medicine and Divine healing?

Quote

"Medical healing bears witness to the providence of God in creation providing in the natural order remedies and human skills to cure his creatures.

Divine healing, by contrast bears witness to the operation of the Spirit breaking through the limitations of the natural.

One gives testimony to a God who provides within his creation; the other gives testimony to a God who can reverse the natural processes."

"It is not either or but both and." Complimentary

Questions

What is God saying to us about the healing ministry?

What are the effects this ministry has?

Has Jesus rescinded his command to preach the gospel and heal the sick?

How can this happen in the church today?

Are we using the resource God has entrusted to the church? James 5:14-16.