

Jesus Heals Today

"And behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus, seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee"— Matt. 9:2. The eighth and ninth chapters of Matthew record healings of various sorts by the hand of the Lord. Accordingly we readjust be-fore this, that Jesus had cast the demons out of a man; and because they went into the swine, the whole city besought Him to vacate their coasts. He did so and came into His own country. Jesus did not cease preaching because some refused His message. He did not quit healing the sick, because some people spoke against divine healing. Nor does He cease "doing business in the same old way" today to please the critics and unbelievers.

Seeing Their Faith

What penetrating eyes our blessed Lord possesses. He saw three things which only the spiritual eye can see. 1. He saw that the palsied man was a sinner; tho' He addressed him as a "son," because he was of Israel. His friends brought him for healing; but Jesus beheld that he needed to be forgiven. Ah! truly; man's in-ward state is "open and-naked" before His eye. Nothing can be hid from it. 2. He saw their faith. We can see the results, or fruit of faith: but He beholds faith itself. And for that. He is looking. He might have observed many other things—the sick man's clothes, his bed, the crowd, etc.; but no. He saw what He was looking for, even faith. So it is now. The Lord is casting about to see faith. .He stops for the cry of faith. He passes by the high, the great, the wise, the masses; but pays His respects to faith. "Faith moves the Mighty God," exclaimed the poet, and rightly. Whose faith? Answer, 'their faith.'" The faith of the sick one, who desired to be brought. The faith of those who brought him. Wonderful! He asked no questions made no suggestions, required no corrections, offered no objections. And He gave more than they requested. They brought the sick man for healing. But Jesus saved him. - He shouted "Son be of good cheer" (for doubtless he wore a sad, dejected look); "thy sins be forgiven thee." That was the sweetest word he had ever heard. "Sins forgiven." Wonderful! Sins against God for-given. Free from guilt before the holy Jehovah; acquitted before the bar of eternal justice, the highest court of the universe. "Peace on earth."

Critics On Hand

"And behold certain of the scribes said with-in themselves (They were too cowardly to say it out loud), "This man blasphemeth." Yes, strange to say, the fault-finders are-always present where God is working. "The scribes," who stand for the wisdom of men, are fine fellows. They are well informed, discreet, learned in doctrine, able to give advice, even ready to instruct the Lord Himself. They do not need God. They are well, have plenty of everything and are always in demand. But they were too late. The sinner was already forgiven. Thank God. 3. Jesus saw the unseeable. Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" said Jesus. Again, I exclaim, Wonderful! The Lord knew their thoughts. He read their hearts. He went to the core invariably. Evil is in the heart. Thoughts come from the heart. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Men may close their mouths: they cannot close the heart. The light penetrates; for Christ is the light. How foolish for people to suppose that they can hide from the eye of Jehovah. Jesus put a powerful query to them. Let the objectors to divine salvation, or divine healing consider it well.

"For whether is easier (that is for God), to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Arise and walk?" That question has never yet been answered. Still, men act and talk as if one were easier than the other. They had to admit the Lord could heal; for they had seen it demonstrated. But how could He forgive sins? Today they say that He can save men, forgive their sins; but He cannot, or at least, does not heal, some claim. It is not hard for us to believe God for healing, nor to trust Him to heal others; but we are certainly puzzled how a saint who knows the Book can deny and decry divine healing, especially in the face of the thousands of witness to this glorious healing Gospel.

The Master's Credentials

"But that you may know that the son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins (then saith He to the sick of the palsy), Arise, take up thy bed and go unto thine house." The visible healing of the sick and suffering were the invincible credentials of our Lord when He was on earth. People believed that Jesus was the Sent of God when they beheld the miracles that He wrought. If we as ministers cannot route demons and recover men from sickness and pain; what proof have we that we are Gospel heralds? How can we claim to be imitators of Jesus Christ if we proclaim only a very small part of the Gospel? Thank Jehovah. The proof was there. The sick man "Arose and departed to his house."

The critics' mouths were hushed; their fault finding faces were turned to shame. Their charge of "blasphemy" received a death blow. "The Son of Man had power on earth to forgive sins." They had to admit that either the blasphemer (?) healed the palsied man, or the Saviour of men stood before them and demonstrated it that day by granting a double cure—forgiveness of sins and healing of the body. Now note the effective sequel.

"But when the multitudes saw it; they marveled and glorified God, which hath given such power unto men." That is, when they saw the bed-ridden man arise and walk off, they marveled. And not only does the healing of the body glorify the cross of Christ, proving that "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses," but others are compelled to give God the glory for it. God is arresting the attention of the multitudes today by means of divine healing and the working of various miracles.

In our meetings, which are both pastoral and evangelistic, it is our constant joy to give God glory for drawing sinners to Jesus thru the healing message and testimony. It may be true that some men are "making merchandise of the Gospel" of healing and enriching themselves with carnal substance and honors. Be it so; shame on us who are seeking nothing for ourselves, but seek the glory of Jehovah, if we let the selfish be wiser than we. Well may we consider the words of Jesus—"The children of this world are wiser in their day and generation than the children of light." Nay, we should buy up the opportunity. We should use every scriptural means to get the truth before the people. And praise the Lord, He, is enabling us to do it. It is a very common thing for a sinner to come for healing and obtain both forgiveness and healing in two minutes time. Then often the same person goes to the altar and receives the Gift of the Spirit. Amen!

Again, note the exact language—"They glorified God which had given such power unto MEN." Not to the Son of Man simply, but to "MEN." This is marvelous; but this is true.

What power? Power to forgive sins and power to heal the body. Doing the latter was proof of ability to do the former. Therefore, we can throw out the challenge boldly, and we do— that thru His name,"

"whosoever believeth in