

# Are You Ready For Healing?

Presented by Rev. Kristen Lowe on 5/6/2018  
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Waunakee, WI

Scripture: Isaiah 4: 10, 13 & Mark 10: 46-52

Isaiah 41: 10 & 13

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man named Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many scolded him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Bring him to me." So they called to the blind man, "Bartimaeus! Get up! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.



We find healing all throughout scripture. From the beginning, when humans hurt god, god begins the work of healing the broken relationship with the plan to send a savior. In the story of Joseph, God uses Joseph's spiritual gift of interpreting dreams to set in motion events that would save many and heal the land.

In 2nd Kings, we read about a few miracle healings, but not often do we read about a pagan commander coming to a prophet of God for healing. That would take some humility, wouldn't it?

Don't forget the healings done by Jesus and by the apostles. Scripture is ripe with these healing stories and affirms ministries of spiritual healing. This has been something we

## Are You Ready For Healing?

have lost the practice of in regular worship in our culture, but it is coming back and being recognized as a necessary and helpful thing in our spiritual walk.

The root of the word healing in New Testament Greek, *sozo*, is the same as that of salvation and wholeness. Spiritual healing is God's work of offering persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Through such healing, God works to bring about reconciliation between God and humanity, among individuals and communities, within each person, and between humanity and the rest of creation.



**Before the healing,  
Will you choose  
to release  
Your pain to God?**

The New Testament records that Jesus himself healed the estranged and sick and sent out his disciples on ministries of healing. James (5:14-16a) calls us also to pray for and anoint the sick, that they may be healed.

All healing is of God. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness. Healing is not magic, but underlying it is the great mystery of God's love. Those who minister spiritual healing are channels of God's love. Although no one can predict what will happen in a given instance, many marvelous healings have taken place.



## Are You Ready For Healing?

My parents had been married for 7 years when I came along. They retrieved me from an orphanage in LaCrosse where I had spent the first year of my life. I believe they were happy to have a family, but I never saw them particularly warm with each other. AS time went on, my mom created ways of getting away from Dad. Working nights and weekends, getting involved at the animal shelter and the library, going for long leisurely walks... When she came to visit me for a week when I was living in Iowa, she cried when she had to leave saying, "Well, back to prison." They had somehow just grown so cold to each other over the years.



In 2010, my mom had a big surgery at Mayo Clinic. She had developed and aggressive bladder cancer and had a very slim chance of a long life with or without the surgery. The surgeon said it was a big surgery for someone her age and the recovery would be long and painful. She chose the surgery in hopes of lengthening the time she had. I prayed fervently for her healing. I believe that a miraculous healing took place. Her cancer was not cured.



But...during her illness, I saw my parents, for the first time in 50 years, kiss each other, hold hands, go for walks, sit and laugh together. God performed a miraculous healing.

## Are You Ready For Healing?

God does not promise that we will be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement. And... we are able to begin to recognize the miracles that happen.

Likewise, God does not promise that we will be cured of all illnesses; and we all must face the inevitability of death.



This Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it does provide an atmosphere in which healing can happen... a place where we can recognize the pain, release it and ask God to heal it. The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God. When this happens, physical healing sometimes occurs, mental and emotional balance is often restored, spiritual health is enhanced, and relationships are healed. For the Christian the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the less formal gesture of holding someone's hand all show the power of touch, which plays a central role in the healings recorded in the New Testament. Jesus often touched others—blessing children, washing feet, healing injuries or disease, and raising people from death.

Ultimately, our full physical healing awaits us in heaven. In heaven, there will be no more pain, sickness, disease, suffering, or death ([Revelation 21](#)). We all need to be less preoccupied with our physical condition in this world and a lot more concerned with our spiritual condition ([Romans 12:1-2](#)). Then we can focus our hearts on heaven where we will no longer have to deal with physical problems. [Revelation 21:4](#) describes the true healing we should all be longing for: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." We also recognize that God can work through us in the power of touch and the power of healing prayers. Such an act is a tangible expression of the presence of the healing Christ, working in and through those who minister in his name.

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When Bartameus hears that Jesus is near, he believes that Jesus can heal him. He wants to see! But Jesus asks him a very strange question: What do you want me to do for you? Jesus knows that there are many wounds that Bartameus is carrying... physical, emotional, mental, spiritual... If Bartameus asks for his eyes to be healed, does he understand what he is asking?

His whole life, he has lived in this manner...begging for money, living with the people who shared similar conditions and relying on the kindness of others. If Jesus heals him and gives him his sight, it will mean that Bartameus will have to live differently. He will need to learn a trade, he will have to give up relying on others for his needs. Is he ready to release these things?

Today Jesus asks you, what do you want me to do for you? And, are you ready to receive healing?



May you feel God's healing presence shower over you today. Amen.