

# HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES

Matthew 8-9

## I. THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS (Matthew 5:17-20; 7:12)

- A. The healing ministry of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies (Matthew 8:17 with Isaiah 53:4).
- B. The healing ministry of Jesus also exemplifies how Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses. When Jesus healed the leper he told him, “go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them” (Matthew 8:4 with Leviticus 14; see also Luke 17:11-17).

## II. “HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES” (Matthew 8:17 with Isaiah 53:4)

- A. Matthew’s quotation of Isaiah 53:4 encompasses the larger context of Isaiah.
  - 1. Isaiah had prophesied about the virgin birth of Jesus (Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:22-23).
  - 2. Jesus quoted from Isaiah at the beginning of His public ministry (Luke 4:18 with Isa.61:1-3).
  - 3. The first two beatitudes came from Isaiah 61:1-3 (Matthew 5:3-4).
  - 4. When John the Baptist was languishing in Herod’s prison, John sent disciples asking Jesus if He was the “Expected One.” Jesus response to John came from Isaiah (Matthew 11:4-5 with Isaiah 35:3-6 and Isaiah 61:1).
- B. There is a relationship between the atonement of Jesus and the healing miracles of Jesus.

atonement – Atonement is a combination of the word “at” plus “onement.” Atonement means to make at one. Atonement refers to what Jesus accomplished on the cross – Jesus made His people at one with God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been and are being restored back into fellowship with God.

- C. Healing people with *touch* illustrated that Jesus took upon Himself our infirmities and carried away our diseases (cf. Lev.15; Numbers 5:1-3).
  - 1. Jesus stretched out His hand and touched the leper (Matthew 8:3).

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Leviticus 5:2-3 (NASB95)

2 ‘Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether a carcass of an unclean beast or the carcass of unclean cattle or a carcass of unclean swarming things, though it is hidden from him and he is unclean, then he will be guilty.

3 ‘Or if he touches human uncleanness, of whatever sort his uncleanness may be with which he becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him, and then he comes to know it, he will be guilty.

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- 2. Jesus touched Peter’s mother-in-law (Matthew 8:15).
  - 3. The woman suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years touched the fringe of Jesus’ cloak (Matthew 9:21; cf. Luke 6:19).
  - 4. Jesus took the dead girl by the hand and raised her from the dead (Matthew 9:25; cf. Numbers 19:11).
  - 5. Jesus touched the eyes of the two blind men (Matthew 9:29).
- D. According to the law, touching human uncleanness involved offering up a guilt offering (Leviticus 5:2,3 with Isaiah 53:4,10).

Depart, depart, go out from there, Touch nothing unclean; Go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves, You who carry the vessels of the LORD (Isaiah 52:11).

**III. THE HEALING OF OUR INFIRMITIES AND DISEASES IS ROOTED IN THE ATONING DEATH OF JESUS AND IN HIS BODILY RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD. IT IS THROUGH THE CROSS THAT THE CURSE FOR SIN WAS AND IS BEING REMOVED** (cf. Genesis 3:16-19)

- A. We usually think of the cross as the place where our sins are forgiven. And it most certainly is that! But the cross is also the place where we are and will be made physically whole (Matthew 8:17 with Isa.53:4; cf. Psalm 103:3; Phil.3:20-21).
- B. Jesus is a Savior of the whole person.
  - 1. The leper was not only physically healed, but restored back to the Israelites community (Matthew 8:1-4).
  - 2. The paralytic was made whole: (1) “your sins are forgiven;” (2) Get up, pick up your bed and go home” (Matthew 9:6).
- C. According to the **law and the prophets**, sin not only separated people from God – so did physical infirmities (Leviticus 13-14; 21:17-21 with 22:1-6,22-24; Isaiah 59:2; etc.).
- D. What do the miracles of Jesus teach us about the temple, the priesthood, and the Person and Work of Jesus? (see Matthew 12:6)
- E. “bodily discipline is only of little profit” (1 Timothy 4:8).
- F. You cannot be the savior of your own body. Your good works of dieting and exercise and of reading medical journals cannot save your body from disease, sickness, and death. You can no better save your body from the consequences of sin than you can save your soul from sin.

**QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Is Jesus the Savior of your life? Have you been trusting in Him for salvation from sin and for the salvation of your body from disease, affliction, and death?*

*Did Jesus come to abolish the law and the prophets? How do we know from Matthew 8-9?*

*What is the meaning of “atonement”?*

*How did Jesus heal people in Matthew 8-9, which illustrated His taking upon Himself our infirmities and carrying away our diseases? (Matthew 8:3,15; 9:21,25,29)*

*Where is healing to be found for our bodies which are subject to the curse of sin?*

*What do the miracles of Jesus teach us about the temple, the priesthood, and the Person and Work of Jesus?*

