

JESUS ABSORBS OUR SICKNESS AND SUFFERING!
MATTHEW CH8:14-17

ILLUSTRATION

Why do people suffer with sickness and disease? Is sickness self inflicted? Does sickness come from somewhere else? What does sin have to do with sickness? Where do we stand on the power of Jesus to heal? Can we claim the power of Jesus to be healed? What happens if we claim the power of Jesus to heal and the illness or disease does not go away? Can God heal today? Does God want to heal today?

THE SICKNESS! VI4

Jesus had made His headquarters in Capernaum (Ch4:13) and now returns there and after preaching on the Sabbath at the synagogue, He goes to the home of Simon Peter. Matthew records for us that Peter's mother-in-law is sick with fever, and so ill that she is laying down in bed. The event of Simon Peter's mother-in-law being healed along with people who were both demon possessed and sick is also covered in Mark Ch1:29-34 and Luke Ch4:38-41, as well as here.

Matthew like the two previous healings (Ch8:1-13) once again records for his readers that Jesus has the authority (the same authority that Chapter 7 ends with) to heal, either by touch or by word, with neither banishment, gentile and now gender, being a hurdle for Him. Jesus has the authority to heal whosoever He chooses!

Jesus needs only to exercise His power and the deed is done! Matthew records for us the effectiveness and instantaneity of Jesus's healing power!

THE SON VI5-16

Jesus comes “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt Ch1:21) and the same authority that saves, is the very same authority that heals! These healing miracles are not just acts of Jesus healing power, but point forward to something else! The miraculous healing acts point toward the cross, where Jesus, God's Son, who is sinless, will become a substitute for mankind!

It is at the cross that Jesus defeats Satan and consequently defeats the power of sin over our lives! The ultimate undoing of sin at the cross will lead to the absolute abolition of sickness and illness, in the coming Kingdom! On that day, when Christ returns, all sickness, demonic power, sin and death will be completely and utterly removed from God's people (Revelation Ch21:4 + Ch22:3)!

THE SCRIPTURES! VI7

Why does Matthew cite Isaiah Ch53:4? Jesus' healings are “benefits” of the work He alone undertakes at the cross. This is Matthew's point in referencing Isaiah! Matthew chooses to cite Isaiah on 12 occasions:

Matt Ch1:23	-	Is Ch7:14
Matt Ch3:3	-	Is Ch40:3
Matt Ch4:16	-	Is Ch9:1-2
Matt Ch8:17	-	Is Ch53:4
Matt Ch12:17-21	-	Is Ch42:1-4
Matt Ch13:13-15	-	Is Ch6:9-10
Matt Ch15:8-9	-	Is Ch29:13
Matt Ch20:28	-	Is Ch53:10-12
Matt Ch21:13	-	Is Ch56:7
Matt Ch24:29	-	Is Ch13:10 + 34:4
Matt Ch27:12	-	Is Ch53:7
Matt Ch27:58	-	Is Ch53:9

In Chapter eight Matthew chooses this particular reference from the Book of Isaiah, to show that Jesus is fulfilling what was prophesied! Scripture recognises that all sickness and disease is caused either directly or indirectly by sin! When caused directly, a particular sin issues a particular illness or sickness. Healing cannot take place unless the sin is dealt with first.

When indirectly, it reflects that all of us live this side of the fall, under the curse and limited by mortality. Such sickness will plague us until Christ's return, or when He calls us home!

Healing is one of those benefits secured by the cross, occasionally now, and promised fully in the New Heaven and Earth!

APPLICATION

Firstly, all sickness is the result of the condition of sinfulness in which we all find ourselves, but only some sickness is the direct result of specific sin. Secondly, some may say that God either cannot or does not want to heal and that's why sickness remains. They are in error of the Scriptures! Thirdly, some may say that it is because of inadequate faith that people are not healed. They too are in error of the Scriptures! Any sickness should cause us to reflect!

Scripture reveals to us that God, in the form of Jesus, is willing and able to absorb in His own person, the sin bound up in suffering, through His death on the cross! So we have no right to claim the healing power of Jesus, but we can ask! God who is rich in mercy *will* choose how to respond!