

Title: Anointing the Sick With Oil

Text: James 5:13-20

Would you open your Bibles to James Chapter 5. Today we will conclude our study of this wonderful book of James. And boy are we going to conclude ~~our~~ ~~study~~ on a hot topic: THE SUBJECT OF HEALING...Physical healing of the body as it is found and taught in the Bible. My subject title is: ANOINTING THE SICK WITH OIL. Now, I hope to share with you what the Bible teaches about healing..NOT WHAT I think..not what others think..But what the Bible teaches.

There are notes in your bulletin for you to use.

James chapter 5 beginning with Vs 13...(READ Vs 13-20) *Keep them open*

PRAYER

Our Father, we come to you with needy hearts. Lord, you are aware of the problems that we have faced even this past week. We know there are folks here today, who have needs and concerns. And Father, we know that you are the great physican. We pray that you will heal..that you would perform your deliverance today. So that we might know you as not only the physican in the physical realm, but also of the spiritual. That you can heal the human body as well as the human soul. We pray, that we shall know the power of your healing.

Father, we pray that you would make us sensitive to the Holy Spirits' control in our lives. That you want to work in us regardless of the circumstance of life. And we ask this in Jesus name....Amen.

~~F. Balaban on Healing -~~

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I don't need to inform this congregation, today, that the subject of "healing" is one of the most popular topics in our country. It has divided brother with brother and sister with sister. It is often misunderstood and critized by many within ^{the church} as well as those outside the church.

If you are suffering today, or you have a sickness or a friend who is sick and you ask: "WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT PHYSICAL HEALING? Then, I hope you will take careful notes this morrowning. I hope you will put your pre-conceived ideas aside and just look at this passage carefully so that you will understand once and for all, just what the Bible teaches about the subject of Healing.

I am afraid that many people have taken the teachings of James chapter 5, and have twisted them and have used them in a wrong way. So, I want to give to you, today, exactly what the Bible says. ^{SO,} (2B) I want to examin in these few moments together WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PHYSICAL HEALING.

(1C) First of all, you will notice in Vs 13 and 14 that James outlines the practice that we should follow when something happens to us. And you will notice that there are three things mentioned. In Vs 13 James ask : IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SUFFERING? He also ask: IS ANYONE CHEERFUL? In Vs 14 he ask: IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SICK? Three separate question are ask in these two verses.

(1D) So, number one, James tells us the practice we are to follow in deep heartach. Our last time together, I mentioned to you that the word "suffering" is a word which means 'emotional distress'. It is not talking about physical illness of the body. It is talking about emotional distresses. *Tension*

So, in times of deep heartach or in times of emotional suffering..WHAT DO WE DO? What do we do when the pressures of life are so great..the emotional tensions so severe...WHAT DO WE DO? WHERE DO WE TURN? WHERE DO WE GO FOR HELP?

Well, we have the answer in Vs 13...IT SAYS.."LET HIM PRAY." Prayer is the answer for emotional suffering.

The song writer says.."Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there."

In I Peter 5:7 we read, "Casting all your cares upon Him because He cares for you."

So, what should we do when we are emotional distressed? We are to pray.

In Philippians 4:6 Paul says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Oh, the wonderful peace of God will come when we pray with thanksgiving. Emotional distress...in times of deep heartach....LET HIM PRAY..

(2D) Secondly, Vs 13. What is the practice we are to follow in times of happiness? What are we to do? "Let him sing praises." WHY? Because singing songs..praises the Lord for His blessings. If you are happy, today..then praise God for it. Thank Him. Let there be a melody in your heart and a song on your lips. In the book of Colossians it talks to us about singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. So, praise the Lord *in song*

(3D) But now, on to our subject. What is the practice we are to follow in times of sickness[?] and ~~poor health?~~ Vs 14 ask: "IS ANYONE AMONG YOU SICK?"

Now, please notice a couple of important points. In Vs 15 the word "sick" is a different word than the word "sick" found in Vs 14.

Vs 15 reads, "The prayer offered in faith will save the one who is sick." The word "sick" in Vs 15 is a different Greek word than the *word* one in Vs 14.

The word "sick" in Vs 14 is used in only one other place in the entire Bible. This may give us an idea of what kind of sickness God is talking about. It is used in John chapter 5 verse 7, where John is talking about a man who was paralyzed and unable to put himself into a pool of water. I trust you remember the story. The man was paralyzed...He was unable to help himself. And the Bible says he was sick. A sickness whereby you are unable to help yourself.

And that is the word that James uses in chapter 5 verse 14. Literally it is saying: "Are any of you sick...that is without strength...with no possibility of recovery according to the normal healing practices of the day.

When God talks about physical healing in James chapter 5, He is not talking about my finger being sore...He is not talking about having a cold. He is not talking about a broken bone.

Dear friends, he is talking about those cases that are beyond the possibility of recovery...terminal cases..People who find themselves in the position of no medical help. People who can not find an answer to their sickness. They are without help. WHAT DO WE DO? Well, it is perfectly clear.

Vs 14 says.."Let him call for the elders of the church." In our case the word 'elders' would refer to the pastor and deacons. "and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." That is what you are to do.

Now, I would like you to notice something in Vs 14. It says, "Let him call." That is; let the sick one call.

Recently, I heard a healing service in which the people were ask to come forward for a time of healing. And the Pastor read from James chapter 5. He said: "The elders should call for the sick to come forward and be anointed with oil in the name of the Lord."

Now, that is not what the Bible says. Noitce it very carefully so that you will understand. The Bible says, "LET HIM CALL ---THE SICK PERSON---Let him call the elders of the church.

Even the word "call" means "to bring to one self." It is a private service God has put into his Word, warnings and indications, not to go into mass efforts. Mass healing campaigns are not the will of God. WHY? Because God's Word teache that a person who is sick is to call to himself or herself the Elders of the Church. It is to be a private service.

Now, what is that important? Why would God put this in His Word? WHY? Lest any man should think that the power to heal is his. Lest any group of people should be amazed at the sensationalism, and the atmosphere of a mass healing campaign.

Dear Friends, God's Word teaches that it is a private service. That God deals with the individual heart.

(2C) O.K. secondly, I would like you to notice the prayer that is to be given. The prayer that is to be given according to Vs 15 and 16. We read: "And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up."

Now, what does this mean.."the prayer of faith." Is that talking about the sick man's prayer? The man who is sick and how much faith He has will determine whether He is healed or not? Is that what it is talking about?

OR, is he talking about the elders and their faith? If the elders have enough faith, then the sick person will be healed? Is that what it is talking about? *Answer = Neither*

In the Greek language, in which our N.T. was written, it reads in a **literal** translation.. "THE PRAYER OF THE FAITH." The prayer of THE faith. Not just faith in general. It is not talking about how much faith you have. It is talking about THE FAITH. When every the Bible speaks of "THE FAITH" it is talking about the sum total of God's Word and God's will as revealed in this book. This is "THE FAITH." Earnestly content for THE FAITH. The sum total of what God has revealed in His Word.

Now, I want to share several things about this prayer. *Vs 13*

(1D) Number one..the word "prayer" is a word for "worship." It is not a demand. Many times people who are sick..and maybe you are here today and you are suffering some sickness, or, maybe you have a friend or a family member who is sick...THE PRAYER OF THE FAITH. WHAT KIND OF PRAYER? It is the prayer of worship.

You see, God has a word for "demand." But that word is not used here in this passage. You cannot demand that God heal someone. It is a prayer of worship. A prayer that recognizes the sovereignty of God...His will and purpose; and it seeks God's will and purpose. A PRAYER OF WORSHIP.

(2D) Secondly, I notice that this is a prayer according to the will of God. "THE PRAYER OF THE FAITH.' Any person that prays for God to do something contrary to His Word is violating James chapter 5. It is the prayer of THE FAITH. It is according to the will of God. It is in harmony with the truth about God and His Word. That means that I must pray with understanding and humility.

(3D) Third, I notice that this prayer is concerned with the work of God, and not my desires. The last part of Vs 16 says.. "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Now, this is not the work of man, praying. It is the prayer of God working in us and it accomplishes much. The whole point of this passage is that it is God who heals. It is God who ^{changes} ~~changes~~ lives. It is God's power that is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think. AND WHEN WE BELIEVE.....WE MUST BELIEVE GOD.....NOT MAN! Not the methods and ways of man.

We must believe that God's will is best for us

Oh friends, what do you believe God will do for you? What do you believe God can do in your life? *right Now?*

Maybe you don't care! Maybe you are not concerned? Maybe you want to be, but there are some things in your life which will not allow you to be. But nevertheless the point is so clear. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL DO?

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 (40) NOTICE, VS 15, the POWER THAT HEALS... It says, "restore the one who is sick, and the lord will raise him up."

Now, both those phrases are in the future tense.....FUTURE TENSE...VERY IMPORTANT...WHY?...Because that means that although the certainty is guaranteed, the time is unknown. Oh, it may be soon..It may be right now.... but, it also may be over a period of time. You see, it is the Lord's power that will heal in the Lord's time. *according to the lord's will*

Now, let me say a word about that little phrase in Vs 14, "anointing him will oil." What is the point of putting oil on the heads of people?

~~in~~ *oil* ...in the Bible is a symbol of the power of ~~God's~~ ^{The} Holy Spirit. When we annoint somebody with oil...it is the power of the Holy Spirit which is being symbolized. NOT MAN'S POWER...GOD'S POWER. And that power is symbolized by the use of oil.

Well, you say, that is fine. But does it work? IT SURE DOES...I can give you example after example of people who have had a serious illness. And they have followed the teaching of the Bible. People who have trusted the Lord. And without selfish motives have called the elders of the church. And annointing service was held and they have been healed.

I believe in the power of God to heal. But, I do not believe in the power of man. The power of God to heal when it is done according to God's Word.

God Healer Study

(4C) Now, what proof does God give us that this prayer of ^{The} faith will work?

Notice Vs 17 and 18. "Elijah (the great prophet of Israel) was a man with a nature like ours (meaning...he had problems and difficulties just like we do and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain (that is a thrilling story in the O.T.), he prayed that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit."

Elijah, a man just as we are, prayed that it would not rain. And God answered that prayer. *That is offered as an illustration that God totally answers the prayer of the faith*

I believe that because of the society in which we live, because of the advances of science and medicine, because of the daily routine that every one of us is going through...we ~~no longer can~~ *find it hard to* believe in the power of God. We no longer think that God can intervene in His world. We no longer believe that God can change the course of life as we presently see it. OH, MY, FRIENDS, the Bible teaches us to believe in a God that ~~is~~ *is the answer* supernatural.

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR? We are here in this worship service because of our *belief* interest in God, I trust.

Well, who is God? He is the one who created the universe. He is the one that has all power in His hands. He is all mighty....all powerful.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE GOD WILL DO FOR US THIS WEEK? Jesus taught over and over again that what ever the measure of your faith is.....that will be the extent of the answer that God gives you.

You see, God wants to work in our lives. The problem is: DO WE GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY?

And here is proof....Elijah, a man just like us...He prayed...and God answered that prayer.

(4D) O.K...The last thing that I would like you to notice, today, is found in Vs 19 and 20. Let me ask you a question: WHAT PURPOSE DOES GOD HAVE IN HEALING A SERIOUSLY SICK PERSON? WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE?

~~Found in Vs 19 and 20. "Why did he do this? He did this to show us that the Devil (that is, he wanders away from the foot of the cross) of this world is;~~

all physical healing is only temporary

The ^{Purpose} ~~reason~~ is found in Vs 19 and 20. "My brethern, if any among you strays from the truth(that is...wanders away) and one turns him back; let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death(that means...physical death) and will cover a multitude of sins."

Now...some good folks have read these verse and have said that they refer to a person who is not a christian....one who has never been saved.

NO! that is not true...Notice, the first word in Vs 19...BRETHREN".... WHO IS JAMES TALKING TO?...He says "Brethren". That is, brothers and sisters in Christ. So, he is talking to Christians.

In I Corinthians chapter 11 the ^{Bible} ~~Bible~~ clearly teaches that God brings sickness into the lives of people because of their wandering away from Him, and treating lightly the things of God. *

Notice in Vs 16, James says "confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another."...WHY?..."so that you may be healed."

AGAIN WHY?....Because although all sickness is not a result of sin, sometimes it is. The Bible says in I Cor. 11:30, "For this reason many among you are weak and sick. And a number dead," as a result of the way they treated the things of God. ^{opposed the Lord's supper} Not all sickness is the result of sin. That is clear from John chapter 9 where we read of the man born blind. And the disciples ask Jesus: "WHO SINNED....THIS MAN OR HIS PARENTS."

And Jesus said..."Neither. This man was born blind so that the works of God might be shown in him." *And Jesus Healed That man.*

So, dear friends, all sickness is not the result of sin, but some of it is...

In James 5, it teaches that sin may be blocking the way to God's answer. AND THE POINT IS:....that this service of anointing with oil and ~~serious illness~~ is brought into a believers life in order to deal with sin.

Physical Healing

And sin may or may not be the cause. But, sometimes it is. And personal sins maybe the cause of what is wrong with us. And God uses this to bring people into a right relationship with himself. To bring believers back... believers who have wondered from the truth -- people who are away from God.. and God says that one who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Where are you today? You say, "well, I am not suffering any serious illness." Dear friends, the greatest illness a person can suffer is SIN.

WHAT IS SIN? Sin is "self" living its life apart from God. It is saying I don't need God...I can run my own life.

Sin is self. The greatest sickness, the greatest illness that any person can suffer is SIN. The Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Bible says that our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation and forgiveness of our sin.

That is why I am so thankful for the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ. Because God so loved me that he sent his son that If I would believe in him I might have eternal life.

Jesus brought delieverance from our sin sick soul. I am glad that Jesus loved this sinner. I am glad he saved me.

And he loves you. He wants to save you. ^{He} ~~He~~ wants you to stop living in sin. If you have never trusted in Jesus...Or, if you are a christian but you are living in sin, may I say today that it is a decision of faith and faith alone. It is believing God for what He has done in Jesus for you. Will you believe in Jesus today? Will you invite Jesus to come into your life? He is waiting to heal ^{you} the sin sick soul.

LET US PRAY