

# The Kingdom of God part 4

Valleys Family Church Sermon  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012

## Intro-

- In part 1 spoke on Dan 7 where Daniel has a dream about vast Empires. Noted the kingdom of God would be the greatest of all Empires, starting small but filling the earth, captivating hearts through God's love.
- In part 2 spoke on 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand'- John the Baptist's & Jesus' message from Matt 3 & 4. We spoke on the importance of repentance and faith to open the door to the Kingdom. We defined the Kingdom as the rule and reign of God and looked at the effects of this- Heaven invading earth. We looked at the Kingdom as both the presence of God physically 'near' us, as well as relating to time- that the Kingdom came with Christ's first coming, is continuing to come now, and will also come in the fullest sense when Christ returns.
- In part 2 spoke from Lk 11:14-26 on deliverance being part of God's kingdom coming. Deliverance is a normal part of God's Kingdom coming. Deliverance demonstrates that Jesus is King. Deliverance is a part of the work of harvesting we are called to join Christ in gathering in. Deliverance comes so that lasting change can take place.
- Today we will look at another sign of the Kingdom of God coming- the ministry of healing.

## Read Luke 9:1-6

**The king, Jesus, has delegated authority over sickness to His people-** v1 '...gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases' (Matt 10:1 says all/manner of diseases)

- What has this got to do with the Kingdom of God? Well, a King comes with authority and here the King delegates His Kingly authority to others to administer His kingdom on His behalf. Sickness is an enemy to the Kingdom of God. When the sick are healed in Jesus' name the kingdom is being established on earth as in Heaven. There is no sickness in Heaven.
- In the name of means 'in the authority of'. We heal in the name of Jesus. Jesus healed in the name of the Father to role model the ministry to us:

Jn10:25- "Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me." Jn14:10-"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."

- **Application-** if we really believed we had been given authority over sickness how would we speak to it? Notice in scripture Jesus & disciples speak healing authoritatively to people often rather than praying (James says the prayer of faith heals).
- The Apostles delegated authority to heal- here the 12, later the 70/72.
- **But healing not just for Apostles. Characterises apostles (2Cor 12:12 signs, wonders, miracles) but not limited to.**
- **Elders** called to pray for the sick:

Jas5:14-15- "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the **elders** of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

- Stephen & Philip were **deacons** (Acts 6:5). Stephen the deacon did great wonders & signs among the people Acts 6:8 (must have included healing). Philip the deacon healed many lame & paralysed Acts 8:7. Ananias 'a certain disciple' (Acts 9:10) lays hands on Saul to be healed (Acts 9:12, 17-18),
- Moreover, **all believers** are promised the authority to heal by Jesus:

Jn14:12- "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."- it is clear from the context and also from the way 'the works' is used elsewhere (e.g John 10) that Jesus is referring to miracles including healing.

These signs will accompany those who believe:

Mk 16:17-18 "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

- Then Jesus **commissioned His church** to do the same and sent His Church out in power- this is the Great Commission- Mt 28 (although does not mention healing here the gospel message we are to bring involves bringing healing as we will see later).
- A big reason the Holy Spirit comes is to enable us to witness in power so that signs like healing can happen through us- Acts 1:8
- **Healing isn't just for those with gift of healing.** Evangelist=gift, but all called to tell the good news, but some particularly gifted in it- same with healing- some move more powerfully than others in this realm.
- Leave results to God, but do your bit- pray

**The kingdom message we preach is meant to be accompanied by healing- v 2, 6, 11**

- 9:2- He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick
- 9:6- So they departed and went through the towns preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.
- 9:11- He received them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God and healed those who needed healing.
- In these verses both Jesus and the disciples both preached and healed. Some churches into healing, some into word- we need to do both to be biblical Paul said 'fully preached gospel':

Rom15:19 "in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."

A demonstration of the Spirit's Power:

1Cor2:4-5-"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

Jesus said 'don't believe me unless I do works of my father':

John 10:37-38 "Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

- Importance of healing for evangelism- confirms message, many converted as result- Acts, today

## **The kingdom message should stir up faith for healing- v 2, 6, 11**

- The content of the message seemed to lead to faith for healing in these verses (2,6,11) so what is the content they may have brought?
- **The King who breaks yokes**  
Notice that in verse 6 preaching the gospel is the same as verse 2 preaching the Kingdom of God- our gospel message presents Jesus as the promised king who sets people free. In the Street Bible He is wonderfully nicknamed The Liberator.
- OT prophecies about KING/MESSIAH/ANOINTED ONE releasing yokes, healing-

Messiah breaks oppression:

Is9:4- "For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian."

Anointing breaks the yoke:

Is10:27- "It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil."

God anointed Jesus to heal oppressed:

Acts10:38-"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

Define Messiah - anointed one -Anointed king sets the captives free- anointed one, king, oil, empowered, king invades and liberates- Cyrus called 'anointed one' & he set Israelite captives free to go home & build temple:

Is45:1-"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held-- To subdue nations before him And loose the armour of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:"

John wanders if Jesus is the Christ/Messiah & Jesus reminds him of His credentials- breaking the yokes off people:

Lk7 :19-23- "And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' " And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Jesus broke not the yokes of slavery to the Romans but the yoke of sin and bondage to spiritual oppression and also sickness.

- **Healing comes through the finished work of Christ on the cross for us.**
- Honeymoon all inclusive wrist band - cross - ticket to liberty. As we understand more we get more freedom. 'It is finished' - no more to do- cannot add anything. Died for all our sins + sickness's + oppression etc.

This includes healing our emotions. He became for us a man of sorrows:

Is 53:3- "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."

He bore our griefs + sorrow:

Is 53:4-"Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted."

- Includes emotional problems - trauma, anxiety, depression, rejection, shame - 'my God, my God why have you forsaken me' (so we are not).

For inner healing see also:

Is 61:2-3- "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

As well as for our sins Jesus died for every aspect of our healing including physical:

Is 53:5- "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

Chastisement of our Peace=Shalom =well, happy, friendly, welfare, health, prosperity, peace (Prince of Peace)

- **Stripes** --- weal, blueness, bruise, wound
- **Healed** --- Heb. RAPHA= to mend (by stitching)i.e. cure - be made whole and healthy.

Matthew applied this verse to healing ministry of Jesus:

Mt 8:16-17- "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES."

- **The Brass serpent** in scripture is a type for the cross & hints that there is healing through the cross:

Num21:8-9 "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."

Jesus quoted this passage as prefiguring His cross:

Jn3:14- "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up"

Snake in the desert- people looked & were healed. People had spoken against Moses & God & serpents bit them & many died. Moses had to make a brass snake on a pole & raise it up & all that looked at it were healed. Although Jesus speaks about this referring to our salvation surely there is a healing element seen here as well. All Christians will be ultimately fully healed through the cross in their resurrected bodies, but there is also provision for healing in this life.

- **The Greek word SOZO.** Healing is connected to salvation- the Greek word 'sozo'- can mean saved, healed, delivered:

**Sozo=Saved**

Act4:12- "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (sozo)."

**Sozo=Healed**

Woman bleeding:

Mt9:21- "For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well (sozo)."

Mt9:22- "But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well (sozo)." And the woman was made well (sozo) from that hour."

### Jairus's Daughter:

Mk5:23- "and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed (sozo), and she will live."

### Many healings:

Mk6:56- "Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well (sozo)."

### A blind man:

Mk10:52- "Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well (sozo)." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road."

### A lame man:

Acts 4:9- "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, (sozo)"

### Healing in the Church:

Jas5:14-15- "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save (sozo) the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

### Sozo=Delivered

#### Legion:

Lk8:36- "They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. (sozo)"

- However, very importantly, if we are not healed in this life it doesn't mean we will not be saved & it doesn't mean God doesn't love us. We can't stretch the healing/salvation connection too far- if we are healed in this life it's a bonus. We live in a fallen world with mortal bodies that are wearing out- there is a greater glory to come & there is a right time to die and we will all be healed in glory, so the cross will bring us all a full healing. Also everyone that Jesus raised from death or healed is now dead- they had a temporary fix until the full fix in glory.

### Healing is not limited to a religious building- v6- they went through the towns preaching the gospel and healing everywhere

- Here Jesus is planting a seed principle for the growth of the Church- you don't have to be in a Synagogue to hear about God or to get healed by Him.
- Let's be willing to speak out the good news to others wherever they may be but also to pray for healing.

### Summary

- We have authority to heal.
- Gospel message to be accompanied by healing.
- Gospel message to be releasing faith for healing.
- Healing not limited to location.

### Song: *Say the word*