

He Does Will

I want to share with you a record of deliverance from the Word of God. This record is not a long one. Really, we will only be reading a handful of verses. But when we read these verses with spiritual perception and awareness (which is what we are going to do), we find that they are jam-packed with insights. We will begin in Matthew 4.

Matthew 4:23

As we read this verse, it is important to note that Jesus teaching and preaching the gospel preceded the healing ministry. The healings, miracles and signs are all subsequent to the teaching/preaching of God's Word. It is His Word that He magnified above His name not the results associated with believing that Word. We also notice in the second half of the verse that he healed "all manner of sickness" and "all manner of disease". Sometimes in reading the Word of God it can be helpful to our understanding to note what it does not say. It does not say "all manner of sickness except this kind". It does not say "all manner of disease except that kind". There are no exceptions. Jesus Christ was a complete savior, a complete deliverer. We may fail to live up to our rightful privileges because we are humans, but that does not negate the completed work that Christ accomplished.

Matthew 4:24

Here again, we see a wide variety of maladies and ailments addressed by Jesus. And no matter what it was, he healed them. And we should note that the Word does not say he healed everybody in the Galilee area or Syria. But everyone that came to him got healed. And it is worth pointing out once more what the verse does not say. It does not say "he healed them except for this guy or except for that person". Everyone that came (and not all did certainly) received deliverance.

Matthew 4:25, 5:1,2

With the great multitudes assembled, Jesus went up into a mountain. His disciples went with him up the mountain, but the multitudes did not. The rest of chapters 5, 6 and 7 contain what we refer to as The Sermon on the Mount. While

there is much that is interesting, informative and profitable in these three chapters, this sermon is not germane to our topic today. So, we want to skip over them and go to Matthew 8.

Matthew 8:1

Coming down from the mountain, Jesus is back with the multitudes. You can see very easily how this picks up from chapter 4. The context from chapter 4 is important to keep in mind as we continue to read here.

Matthew 8:2

In the midst of that multitude of people, there came one and that one was a leper. Leprosy was a disease that not only affected you physically, it affected you socially as well. A leper really became an outcast from society. No one would want to have any contact with a leper. One of the older Bible dictionaries that I consulted concerning leprosy referred to the book "Ben Hur", later made into the epic movie with Charlton Heston in the lead role. If you have ever seen that movie, the depiction of leprosy and how lepers were shunned from any normal interactions with other people and the community is really stark. Leprosy is a contagious disease and anyone that had contact with a leper was considered unclean. So certainly no one in the multitude would want to be anywhere near this man. But here he came to Jesus.

Look at his words to Jesus. "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean". Here is where we must remember the context from what we read in chapter 4. There, he healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease, no exceptions. There, everyone who came to Jesus was healed, no exceptions. So, this man, this leper had no doubt about Jesus' ability to heal and we see this in his words "thou canst make me clean".

But he also said "Lord, if thou wilt". He expressed uncertainty about Jesus' willingness to heal him. In the multitude, everyone that came with a need received deliverance, but was it for him too. We don't know how long he had been afflicted with leprosy but perhaps the way society dealt with him had an effect on him. In any event, he was uncertain about his receiving healing. Doesn't this sound like so many Christians today? They say that they know God can heal and deliver, but when talking about their own afflictions you hear things

like “well, everything happens for a reason” or “I know that God has a plan” as if sickness and affliction are a part of what God wants for them. But look at the Word of God we just read. Jesus Christ always carried out God’s will and he healed every sickness and every disease and everyone that came. That is God’s will – end of story! Now we may not live up to what God’s Will is for us but that doesn’t change His Will. In the next verse, Jesus sets this straight.

Matthew 8: 3

Sometimes, when I am reading the Word of God, there will be a word or a phrase or a verse that really hits me. When that happens, I simply have to stop reading and consider the enormity of what I just read. The first part of verse 3 is one of those places. Jesus put forth his hand and touched him. That phrase really struck my mind and I want to consider it from two different points of view: Jesus and also the leper.

From the point of view of the leper, how long had it been since anybody had willingly touched him? Certainly not since he had become a leper. He had no normal contact with anyone. And yet, Jesus reached out and touched him. How do you think that might have affected him? What did that do to any doubt he might have had?

When we are teaching people how to walk by the spirit, sometimes we use the phrase “inspired action” and that is what is at work here. God works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure and you simply act without thinking about it.

There is no indication that Jesus was afraid that leprosy was contagious. There is no indication that Jesus was afraid that touching the leper would make him unclean. There is no indication that Jesus was concerned about what the multitude would think. He put forth his hand and touched him. As we consider this, we think of I John 4:18 - “there is no fear in love but perfect love casteth out fear”. When we are born-again, we become partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4) and God is love (I John 4: 8, 16). So, we have that same capacity to love and to live fearlessly when we are ministering.

Incidentally, while they are not mentioned specifically, all three revelation manifestations and all three impartation manifestations are at work in this verse in the life and walk of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 8:4

After Jesus ministers healing to this man, he directs him to the written Word to show himself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded. (See Leviticus 13 and 14). By carrying this out as the written Word directs, opens the way for this man to be accepted back into society. Jesus was concerned with the totality of the man's life. And this record sets a pattern for those of us who are endeavoring to help God's people: walking with and utilizing the manifestations of the spirit and directing them to the written Word of God.