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Heals

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- Testimony
- Jesus is our healer.
- This morning let's look at Matthew 8:1-17.
It contains 3 healing stories.

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- Matthew 8:1-4, “When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, ‘Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, ‘See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’”

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- Leprosy was a horrible disease. It was physically & emotionally destructive.
- Somehow this man knew Jesus could heal. The only question he had was would he be willing. “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”
- The great healing lesson in this story is this: **Jesus is willing to heal.** This story reveals the heart of Jesus & his Father. (no one ever comes & is turned away; shame)

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- Matthew 8:5-13, “When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.’ Jesus said to him, ‘I will go and heal him.’ The centurion replied, ‘Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go,” and he goes, and that one, “Come,” and he comes. I say to my servant, “Do this,” and he does it.’

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- Matthew 8:5-13, “When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, ‘I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.’ And his servant was healed at that very hour.”

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- This soldier has a servant paralyzed & in great suffering. The centurion is awestricken by Jesus, feeling unworthy to have him come home. The man understands authority. (commands others)
- The main lesson in this healing story is that **Jesus has authority over sickness.** (Mt 10:1 – BB) He can command it from a distance – that’s the kind of authority Jesus has over sickness. No one in the Gospels grasps the magnitude of Jesus’ authority like this man. (Wimber – honeycomb)

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- Matthew 8:14-17, “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.’”

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- Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, proving nothing is too trivial for Jesus. Matthew ends these healing stories by talking about the crowds that gathered, & how Jesus "healed all the sick."
- Healing is a major part of the gospel message. Re-read the Gospels. The main point in this last story is that **healing is tied to Jesus' work on the cross** (Is 53). He paid the price.

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- Isaiah 53:4-5, “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Kingdom message – restoration; one day fully) (atonement – cover – sins, sickness; primer)

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