

LIFE GROUP Discussion Guide

Northend Church

THE HEART OF JESUS: Does God Still Heal? — Healing

Matthew 4:23 + various texts

A NOTE TO LEADERS: These questions are to guide your conversation. Don't be rigid about getting through every last one. Be sure to spend time on the application part.

OPEN:

1. Do you have a story of healing of either yourself or someone you know? Please share it with the group.
2. What were your views of healing prior to this sermon? What do you think now? Were there any modifications to your thinking? What spoke to you? Were any prayers answered for you at the service?

DIG:

- 1) Read Matthew 4:23
"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the goodness of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."
- 2) There seems to be a pattern to Jesus' healing any time he is going to intentionally heal: he taught and spoke truth about God and his kingdom and then healed. Dr. Grant Mullen mentioned that Jesus' teaching was often if not usually, followed by signs and wonders. What are your thoughts on that?
- 3) There are many stories in the gospels of Jesus healing someone. Let's take a look at John 9:1-12 (the whole chapter is actually about this particular healing). How is the pattern from Matthew 4:23 evident here?
- 4) Grant said there seems to be less belief these days among Christians that such miracles, signs and wonders, still happen. Why might this be?
- 5) Read and discuss these passages: Matthew 10:7, Luke 9:1, Luke 10:1, Mark 16:17. What is Jesus telling his followers? How are these normal people who are like you and me able to do such miracles? What about you? Are you a follower of Jesus? Are you able to pray for healing or delivery of demons???
- 6) When you read the words of Jesus in John 14:12 and Acts 1:8, what are your thoughts? Do you believe that what Jesus said is possible in your life? That you are able to do even greater things than he has done? Why or why not? What holds you back?
- 7) This past Sunday we had a few testimonies of healing after the end of service prayer. For those who don't know, Allen and Karen Kleine Deters, along with the previous Alpha group, witnessed a remarkable healing of extreme eczema on someone's hand and arm. It all healed up within three days of praying even though the person had it for years and nothing the doctors could do helped. How do you respond to those testimonies of healing?
- 8) You might think your faith isn't strong enough or you still struggle with sin.... (Place your reasoning here), but can God still use you to heal? Discuss. Dr. Mullen talked about the faith of a mustard seed, meaning, what?
- 9) What if God doesn't heal someone you pray for? What then? Did you do something wrong with your prayer? Why doesn't God heal everyone? What are your thoughts on that? What do you do when God doesn't answer your prayer the way you want or expect? Think of Paul in 2 Corinthians 12 and his "thorn in the flesh". It wasn't healed.

APPLY: God wants us to come to him expectant that he can, will and is more than able to heal.

1. What is your takeaway today? What truths landed on you that you need to share with others in your life? How can you share these truths?
2. If there is something, what do you need God to heal you of? It can be anything at all. It doesn't have to be some major thing. It could be something as simple as an ingrown toe nail that just won't give up on making your life miserable.

PRAY: Lead in with reading James 5:13-16

- Begin with praise and adoration expressing truths about God.
- Pray for the requests for healing. Lay hands on the person or raise hands toward them specifically toward the area that requires healing. Pray specifically in the name of Jesus for the request. Believe that God will heal. Let the power of God do the rest. (You can anoint the person with oil as well if you feel comfortable with that).
- End with prayers of intercession for known needs and whatever the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind to prayer for and give thanks.

Remember if you don't pray for healing why expect it? It's better to pray for God to work and heal than not.