



Relationship Case Study: Jesus and the People He Healed

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Objectives

Students will understand that Jesus considers His eternal relationship with us as more important than physical health or the temporal conditions we are in during our lives. Students will be able to:

- Describe the interactions from the texts.
- Compare Jesus' interactions with the paralyzed man, the blind man, and the bleeding woman.
- Explain why Jesus may have interacted in that manner.
- Analyze whether Jesus cares more about their physical health or personal relationship with them.
- Propose ways in which they can improve their relationships with others based on Jesus' relationship with the people He healed.

Intro Option 1: Questions to get the brain tracking:

- If you could have one disease, condition, etc. be cured across the entire planet, which one would you chose and why?
- If Jesus could have healed everyone with the snap of His fingers, why didn't He?

Intro Option 2: Would you rather...

- Be able to fly, or breathe under water?
- Have two legs and only one arm, or two arms and only one leg?
- Not be able to talk for one day, or hear for one day?
- Have Jesus cure your terminal illness, or have Jesus forgive you and give you the promise of eternal life?

Intro Option 3: Video Clip

Use a classic guy gives a girl a flower, teddy bear, etc. and says "I love you" type of video. Then ask:

- Which really matters more, the object (flower, teddy bear, etc.), or the person saying "I love you"?
- Why is that?

We are going to look at some scenarios between Jesus and people He healed to see whether healing them was what really mattered, or if it was something else.

Jesus didn't do heal-and-runs. Let's take a look at the interaction between Jesus and those He healed—the relationship that was formed between a person with not just physical needs and his or her Savior. (Split into three small groups and present findings or do each scenario as a large group.)

The Blind Man (John 9:1-39) Read verses 1-7, summarize verses 8-34, then read verses 35-39

- What were some of the needs in this man's life?
Sight, food (since he was a beggar), maybe a place to stay, people to help him get around, relationships with others, a savior.
- Why did Jesus come back and speak with the man at the end of this text?
He heard he had been kicked out of the synagogue. Jesus needed to tell him that He was the Messiah.
- What if Jesus didn't take the time to come back and talk with the used-to-be blind man after he was kicked out of the synagogue?
He might never have heard that Jesus was the Messiah. He would just think Jesus was a prophet like he told the Pharisees. He might not have had the chance to say, "Lord, I believe."

The Paralyzed Man (Luke 5:16-26) Read whole section

- What were some of the needs in this man's life?
People to help him get around, feed him, take care of him, relief from being paralyzed, relationships with others, a savior.

- Why did Jesus tell this man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven" before He even healed him?
He saw their faith, the man needed to be saved from his sins just like any of us, to provoke the Pharisees, to assure him that God forgives our sins.
- Why does Jesus heal the man in this text?
"So you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Not just so the man would be healed, but so that they would know Jesus was the Messiah.
- What if Jesus simply healed him and never said, "Your sins are forgiven"?
He might not have been in as much trouble with the Pharisees, He would not have revealed that He was the Messiah and could forgive sins.

The Bleeding Woman (Luke 8:40-48)

- What were some of the needs in this woman's life?
For her bleeding to stop, relationships with others, a savior.
- Jesus is on His way to a girl who is DYING. Yet, He stops because someone touched Him. Why did He stop?
*Because He felt the "power go out from him."
The healing already took place...why not hustle over to the dying girl instead of stopping to talk to this woman? (Jairus has to be having a conviction that Jesus stops to talk to a woman when his baby girl is dying!)
Maybe stopping to talk to this woman and tell her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace," was more important. Letting the woman know her faith saved her is more important than the physical problems.*
- What if Jesus never stopped on the road to talk with this woman?
She may never have realized it was her faith that saves her.

Bringing it together...

- Is Jesus' ultimate goal for these people just to be physically healed?
- Then what is His ultimate goal in the lives of these people?
- So why did Jesus heal these individuals?

What God does for us...

- What is God's main goal for our lives?
1 Timothy 2:3-5, John 6:29 (Just a couple verses; there are lots more to fit this question.)
- So what about healing and any physical problems in our life?
God, even after saving us from death and the devil, still attends to our other needs as well: Romans 8:28, Matthew 6:25ff. No matter what the situation, God takes care of us just as He took care of the blind man, the paralyzed man, and the bleeding woman.

In our lives...

What is we don't:

- Tell people we forgive them after they have wronged us?
- Stop what we are doing (even if it is important) to help a person in need?
- Make sure people know the reason we serve them?
- How can we interact with others like Jesus interacted with those He healed? How can we show people we care about our relationship with them and their relationship with Jesus?