

Sunday Service ~ February 9, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³ For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth & the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it & his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Let's Pray. Sovereign Lord, what a great privilege it is to come into your presence this morning. To be able to sing to the rock of our salvation. To be able to come before you in thanksgiving and to praise you with music and song. To be able to humble ourselves in worship, to pray to our maker & to place ourselves under your sovereign care.

We admit that we don't come to you often enough, and we don't thank you enough, nor are we humble enough, dependent enough, passionate enough. Please forgive us. Forgive us because for everything we have done wrong, whether we have done or said or acted in the wrong way or failed to do, say or act in the right way, that wrongdoing meant that your Son Jesus had to die on the cross to forgive us that sin. So we thank you for Jesus. May he become more and more real to us today as we sing, listen, pray, reflect and commit this time to you now. And we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song – Sooner Count the Stars

<https://vimeo.com/248230516>

1. I could sooner count the stars
Than number all Your ways
Though I only know in part
That part exceeds all praise
As sunlight fills the skies
Your goodness fills my life
For all Your precious gifts
Receive my gratefulness

2. I could sooner drink the seas
Than fathom all Your love
Like a never ceasing stream
Are mercies through Your Son
The death of Christ alone
Deserves eternal song
For such a love as His
Receive my gratefulness

CHORUS

No praise is high enough
No thanks is deep enough
No life is long enough
To tell of all You've done
No shout is loud enough
No words are strong enough
No song is sweet enough
To sing Your love

3. I could sooner turn back time
Than turn Your heart away
Though the years go fleeting by
Your mercies never change
Before You made the sun
Your love was set on us
For all Your faithfulness
Receive my gratefulness

Bible Reading – Matthew 8:1-13 (NIV)

"When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴ 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." ⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." ⁷ Jesus said

to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"⁸ 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.⁹ 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."¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.¹¹ 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.¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment."

Announcements

Focus for Month: Relationship with God. What does it take to grow your relationship with God? Simply it takes our head, heart and hands. It starts with our head, knowing about God - reading his word, thinking through the gospel, working through a Christian worldview. But that is not enough, it needs to touch your heart, your affections, your inner being. So, you need to spend time with God, sit with Him, talk to Him, trust in Him more and more. Then you need to rely on the fruits of the Spirit to allow God to change you and make you more like him and more servant minded. What do you need to work on- the head, heart or hands?

SRE Dedication service 23/2/25 from 2pm at New Vine Beaches Church @ Jewell.

Phoebe @ Quizworx. Late last year Phoebe Baldwin was accepted into a two-year internship with the Kids ministry group QuizWorx. QuizWorx do an exceptional job communicating gospel truths to primary school audiences and Phoebe will be trained by them in kids ministry and work with them on the shows and tours that QuizWorx are involved in. Phoebe met with our Missions Committee last Sunday who have recommended that our Church both prayerfully and financially support her in this training position. Phoebe is currently at 60% support level and needs to get to 75% very soon. If you would like to support Phoebe, please speak to her or contact her on 0491 704 644 to talk with her about what that support might look like.

Breaking the Silence Training. At this Church we take seriously our responsibilities to provide a safe place for the most vulnerable among us, especially our children. To that end each year provide compulsory training for all those who are involved in this sort of ministry. Once every three years all these people must complete the full training of Breaking the Silence. This year we will be offering this NEXT Sunday 16th February from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Charlestown Church. If you can't make it you can do it online at <https://breakingthesilence.org.au/training/online-training-gateway/> For years 2 and 3 there is refresher training which will be held on Sunday 23rd February from 11:30-12 noon. You should receive an email this week to remind you which training you need to do this year.

Barbara Thomas funeral service can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/live/yNH4j2UIpgs>

New City Catechism – Question 6. How can we glorify God? We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Scripture Reference: "You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always." (Deuteronomy 11:1)

Small Groups. Our small groups are starting back again, so why not join one. It is a great place to grow in your faith. Our Church has small groups for men, women, youth and mixed. They meet morning, afternoon and night on every day except Saturdays. So why not consider joining one? Many will start this week. For more details see our FaceBook page.

Help Needed. There are lots of jobs that need to be done to make the Church function well but two of the bigger jobs that we need help with are

1. **Meal Roster** – someone to coordinate (not make all of them though!) meals for people in the Church that they need this sort of Christian care.
2. **Breaking the Silence.** Someone to administer the Church's data base to ensure that all those working with children have done their training and have the appropriate government clearances.

Please see Stephen or one of the elders if you can help out.

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Eritrea. (Population 3.8 million, Christians, 1.6 million). Followers of Jesus face indefinite imprisonment, conscription, and abuse. Please pray that arrested believers will be freed and for God to provide for their families. For believers forced into military service to be protected and guided in their faith. For Pastors who are especially target and face intense scrutiny, harassment and imprisonment.

Pray for Matt Wigney: Praise that he is settling in well in Nigeria and that his work as a physiotherapist in the hospital has started off well. Pray that he will be able to give culturally appropriate, Christ-centred healthcare; that he will have the energy to help out with City Ministries and be able to speak clearly when asked to say some words of encouragement as he visits or serves in ministries.

Pray for our Prime Minister, Premier, Mayor and elected representatives. That our democratic institutions would continue to serve us well as a nation. That our elected leaders will be wise as they determine policy. That religious freedoms will be protected. That the most vulnerable in our community will be cared for. That we will be thankful for our Christian heritage.

Pray for our Church. That God might raise up, equip and encourage workers for all our regular activities, including Kids Church, Creche, Sparklers, Home Groups, Rosters, Cleaning, Lawn mowing, Committees etc. Thank God for those who are currently serving in this way and pray that they might have the right balance between home/work and Church life.

Bible Reading – Matthew 8:14-17 (NIV)

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Song – Christus Victor (Amen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF5knxzkCVw>

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|---|--|
| <p>1. O Most High, King of the ages
Great I AM, God of wonders
By the blood You have redeemed us
Led us through mighty waters
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation</p> <p>[Chorus]
Now to the Lamb upon the throne
Be blessing, honour, glory, power
For the battle You have won
Hallelujah! Amen</p> <p>2. O Most High, dwelling among us
Son of man sent for sinners
By Your blood You have redeemed us
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
Who lived, who died, who rose victorious</p> <p>Chorus</p> | <p>Bridge
With every tribe and every tongue
We join the anthem of the angels
In the triumph of the Son
Hallelujah! Amen</p> <p>3. O Most High, King of the nations
Robed in praise, crowned with splendour
On that day who will not tremble?
When You stand Christ the Victor
Who was, and is, and is forever</p> <p>Chorus
Bridge
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen, amen</p> |
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Sermon – Willing and Able (Stephen T)

Sermon link: <https://youtu.be/eqUTdAP9Rag>

It can be a terrible thing to get sick or injured or traumatised. For it means we can't do the things that we want to do. We can't live the life that we want to live. But here in Australia in 2025 we have to admit that we live in extremely fortunate times. Not only do we have access to prayer and the God who can heal but the Lord has also given us doctors and surgeons and psychologists and physios who can heal our illnesses, help us right many of our wrongs with surgery and gives us techniques that can help with our mental illnesses.

So, in the last few years, I have had my ACL repaired giving me the chance to run and play sport again. My brother-in-law Barry has had surgery replacing a bladder filled with cancer with a new one made out of his intestines and I have heard two examples of people in our Church having Chronic Fatigue whose lives have been turned around by the skill of those who specialise in dealing with that disease.

Slide 2

But it is not full healing only substantial healing. For last year while rolling over in bed in the wee hours of the morning my repaired ACL snapped again. My brother-in-law Barry has had plenty of complications to his operation and those people cured from Chronic Fatigue still find themselves really tired on occasions. Full healing rarely happens today. But it did happen all the time when Jesus healed. And in our passage today from Matthew 7 we find three examples of how Jesus heals amazingly, fully, completely. Starting when Jesus

Slide 3

1. Cleanses the physically unclean (Verses 1-4)

"When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him." Jesus has just been with his disciples preaching the sermon on the mount and now he comes down from the mountaintop and into the valley where there are loads of hurting people. And on this occasion, he doesn't give them more preaching but a demonstration of his power. He is going to show one & all he won't just make great claims but can deliver on those claims. For this man teaches with all authority, yes, but he also has authority over sins and diseases.

² *"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."* ³ *Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy."*

Slide 4

Now leprosy was, and in some parts of the world today still is, a terrible disease to have. For if you have leprosy, you lose all sense of feeling in your hands and legs. Which means they can be easily burnt, maimed, disfigured because if something bad happens to them and you don't realise it is happening, you don't feel the pain! Dr Brand, a Christian missionary even tells the story that lepers in his village were having their toes and fingers eaten off by rats while asleep and it happened, because they couldn't feel anything happening.

It also was a contagious skin disease so the leper was shunned and had to live on the edge of the town so that they wouldn't infect anyone else. And all of us having gone through COVID know that being isolated from others just adds to your pain and suffering. But when this leper hears that Jesus is in town, he heads straight toward him and I can imagine the crowd parting like the Red Sea. And giving him a very, very wide berth.

Now this leper knows that Jesus has the power to heal, what he is unsure about is if Jesus would want to heal him. He's a leper. He's unclean. A social and physical and spiritual and ceremonial outcast. Does Jesus care about him? Is he willing to do something to help him?

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And Jesus doesn't say, "Wait a second I am a preacher not a healer." Instead, he says, "I am willing." And he shows his willingness by touching him. Now, how long was it since that man had last been touched by anyone? A year? 2 years perhaps, maybe 10 years? We are not told. But the touch of Jesus hand shows not just his love but his power, for immediately there is full healing. Without the help of pills or surgery or a physio, not only does the disease go but the effects of the leper's disease goes, as well.

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A number of years ago Princess Di touched an AIDS patient and it caused a storm. For it showed her love for the unlovable but unfortunately, she could only show her compassion for them. Jesus shows his power and his compassion. His love and his ability to heal.

For the Kingdom of God has now come. Yes, it had been announced in Jesus preaching but in the healing ministry of Jesus it is now well and truly breaking in. In the words of Emil Brunner *"Jesus will not storm Israel with his messianic claim"*, instead he will *"Knock quietly at its door, leper by leper, little by little."*

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⁴*"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."* Your testimony shouldn't be your words, because people will not believe them. Instead, you should do what the law requires and go to the priests. The priests won't be able to heal you but they can declare that you are now healed. And will give you permission to go back to your old way of life and that will be a testimony to them and to others. That Jesus has both the power and the passion. He is able to heal and, in this case, he is willing to heal.

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But Jesus doesn't just heal sickness, but sin. J.C. Ryle, the then Bishop of Liverpool, was not the first to see the similarities. He said, *"But is there nothing like leprosy among ourselves? Yes, indeed there is. There is a foul soul-disease which is engrained into our very nature & cleaves to our bones & marrow with deadly force. That disease is the plague of sin."*

Like leprosy, it is a deep-seated disease infecting every part of our nature – heart, will, conscience, understanding, memory, and affections. Like leprosy, it makes us loathsome & abominable, unfit for the company of God and unmeant for the glory of heaven. Like leprosy, it is incurable by any earthly physician and is slowly but surely dragging us down to the second death. And worst of all, far worse than leprosy, it is a disease from which no mortal man is exempt. We are all in God's sight as an unclean thing – Isaiah 65:4."

Which means if today you have a disease like leprosy, or if something has removed you from society and the result is that you are all alone. Then Jesus has the power to heal. He also has a willingness to heal. Now there is no guarantee that in your circumstances his will for your life is to heal you now. The apostle Paul struggled with a thorn in his flesh, 3 times pleading with God to take it away and was told instead that "My grace is sufficient for you." In that circumstances and in some of our situations we need to place our need in his hands & trust that the one who is able to heal also knows when best to heal, in this life or the life to come.

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James Montgomery Boice in the year 2000 was diagnosed with cancer and then shared with his congregation how they should pray for him. *"Should you pray for a miracle? Well, you're free to do that, of course. My general impression is that the God who is able to do miracles – & he certainly can – is also able to keep you from getting the problem in the first place. So, although miracles do happen, they're rare by definition. A miracle has to be an unusual thing"*

Above all, I would say pray for the glory of God. If you think of God glorifying himself in history and you say, where in all of history has God most glorified himself? He did it at the cross of Jesus Christ and it wasn't by delivering Jesus from the cross, though he could have."

When things like this come into our lives, they are not accidental. Its not as if God somehow forgot what was going on and something bad slipped by. God is not only the one who is in charge; God is also good. Everything he does is good." Boice died 8 weeks later but his last words and actions brought great glory to God. In Matt 8 we see Jesus cleanses the unclean

Slide 10

2. And he heals the ethnically outcast (Verses 5-13)

You see if the leper was a crowd splitter, the Centurion who comes to Jesus next is a crowd stopper.

⁵*"When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help."*

Now the next person who meets Jesus is a real outsider and some one despised by the Jewish people. For this centurion was not just a Gentile, ethnically unclean but a member of an invading force that was brutally ruling over them. But this Centurion was not throwing his weight around, he was humbling himself. He wasn't giving orders to others, instead he was appealing to Jesus. He was asking Jesus for help.

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His servant was paralysed. This slave at the bottom of societies pecking order is suffering terribly. And this centurion couldn't do anything about it. But somehow, he knew that Jesus could. *"Jesus says, Shall I come and heal him?"⁸ 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. ⁹ 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."*

Amazingly Jesus is willing to come into a Gentiles house, which was a real no-no in those days. That would make him unclean & unable to worship God at the temple. But the Gentile knows he is not worthy of that sort of an honour. You see this Centurion realises that Jesus doesn't have to physically touch his servant in the same way he touched the leper. There is no magic formula going on here. All he has to do is say the word and his servant would be healed. For the key issue is not how God heals but who is the one doing the healing.

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¹⁰*"When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."* The people of God, the ones who should be a light to the Gentiles are not showing anywhere near the faith that this outsider, this Gentile is showing. He believes that Jesus can heal. He has humbled himself before Jesus. He is admitting that he is unworthy. He is expressing his complete confidence in the fact that Jesus has authority over the sickness that is causing distress in his own slave.

As Hebrews 11:6 says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* Now there is no evidence that Jesus had healed by long distance before this time but the Centurion has the faith that anyone who comes from God should be able to be healed.

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Jesus continues, ¹¹*"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. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

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God's kingdom is an upside down one. Those subjects of the kingdom, the Jews who don't have faith will be thrown outside and miss out on all of its blessings. But those outsiders, the Gentiles who do have faith will take their places when the Kingdom comes in all its glory. This is staggering. For the Jews by their law keeping thought they were the insiders and the Gentiles who didn't follow the law were the outsiders. But that is not what will happen. Those who have faith in Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles will be the ones who will enjoy the spoils of the coming Kingdom of God & those who don't have faith will miss out completely.

¹³ “Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.” Notice that when the centurion goes. When he steps out in faith, the healing of his servant occurs. Of course, the centurion doesn’t know that until he gets back home. And that is often the nature of faith, we believe that Jesus is willing and able but we don’t see the effects of the power of Jesus until much later. We walk by faith not sight. Because according Hebrews 11:1, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of the things we do not see.”

Slide 16

3. Jesus cleanses the unclean, heals the outcast & restores the culturally marginalised

¹⁴ “When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand & the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.”

This is the only healing in the gospels where there is no request for healing but instead Jesus takes the initiative to heal. Peter’s mother-in-law. I wonder if Peter ever forgave him for that? But this was no joking matter, it was a serious problem. Fever was the biggest killer in the ancient world. But look at this wonderful picture of compassion. Jesus touches her hand. The fever leaves her. And she gets up. Just like that. Full healing. For a woman. For someone who was culturally marginalised.

Just looked at who has been healed in these verses from Matthew 8 – a leper, a Gentile and a woman. In those days all were outcasts, all second-class citizens. But with the coming of Jesus, they are not on the outer any more, they can be on the inside.

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Just think of the temple for a moment it had various courts and various walls between each court. The outer wall stopped all unclean people coming, no lepers were allowed in the temple complex at all. When you got through the outer wall there was the court of the Gentiles but there was a wall stopping them going any further. Women could go into the next court but there was another wall stopping them from where the real action was.

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But with the coming of Jesus, access to the Lord is not just for Jewish men but women and Gentiles and even the unclean. Not just for the select few but for all who have faith in Him and we see that in verse 16 “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.”

The doors of healing are flung wide open. Notice there’s no case too big or too small. Leprosy, that’s not too big for Jesus. Fever, that’s not too small. Demon possession, paralysis, illnesses Jesus can drive them out with a word. For the word of God is powerful. Satan, sickness and sin doesn’t stand a chance. And why is that? Because the Messiah is here. And according to Isaiah 53, this Messiah, this Jesus

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4. He carries our diseases (Verse 17)

You see all these healing miracles begs the question. Why? Why would God send his son Jesus into the world to deal with sickness for such a short period of time? Why haven’t people before & after had access to this sort of power? Why not eradicate sickness & death completely? Why send Jesus now to preach the kingdom & to display its upcoming power?

Well, the obvious answer is that it shows us that Jesus cares. God’s son isn’t aloof to the pain and suffering in this world and so when he comes physically into the world it shows us that Jesus is not just concerned about people’s eternal salvation but also about their ongoing health and welfare. But if you go a little deeper you will see that when Jesus heals, he is fulfilling Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah.

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Isaiah 35:4-6 says *"Your God will come... he will come to save you. Then will the eye of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue will shout for joy."* So, when the leper is healed and blind see, when demons are cast out and fevers go, it is to point people to the coming of the Lord. And his chosen one the messiah. God is here, right now. So, listen to what he says.

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But our passage points us to one more reason why there is now a flood gate of healing taking place. ¹⁷ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."* Jesus wasn't just the Messiah he was also the promised suffering servant spoken about in Isaiah 53. *"A man of sorrows and familiar with our suffering."* The one *"was pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities."*

You see this Messiah humbles himself & becomes our suffering servant. He is willing to be unclean, he is willing to be an outcast, he is willing to be marginalised and even to die on the cross in our order to cleanse us of our sins, heal us of our illnesses, and to break down the walls separating all people from God so that they can now live for eternity in His presence.

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You see this is also a picture of what he will do for us on the cross. The apostle Paul puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:21 *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of Christ."* You get it? Jesus takes our sin and pays its penalty on our behalf on the cross. Jesus takes our separation from God onto himself so that we can be brought near by the cross. Jesus brings in God's kingdom and makes it available to you and I but to do that he must take our infirmities and our illnesses and our sins upon himself, in order to destroy them all. And in the place of our sin, sickness & suffering, God's kingdom promises we will receive Christ's right standing before God. How amazing is that?

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And note this. God can not only do that for you. But he is willing to do that for you. And the response he requires of us is faith. To be like that centurion and walk the path that we are called to walk, not seeing all these things have now happened, not experiencing the full wonders of the Kingdom but knowing when we get home, when we get to our eternal home, we will see that they have all come true. No sin. No sickness. No alienation. Because we now know Christ and his righteousness.

So where does that leave us now? If the kingdom has started, can you and I who have faith always receive full healing? No, I don't believe that the Bible promises this in this world, only in the world to come. But we do have access to the power of Jesus and so we know that he is able to heal and in some circumstances God's will can and will bring about healing for us in today's world. So, before I end, I want to give you three pieces of practical application

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- A. When you are sick turn to Jesus first. When you are lonely, when you are marginalised, when your body is falling apart turn to him and pray. Pray for help. Pray for strength. Pray for healing. Pray that God will get the glory no matter what happens. You see often the first thing we do is reach for some medication. Or we ring up the doctor. Or we complain to our family. But that is not the first thing the man or woman of faith should do.

We should turn to our heavenly father in prayer. Praise Him for his power. Thank him for his love. Worship him in his sovereignty. Confess to him that you are unworthy of His gracious care. And then tell him what is going on. Tell him how you feel. Tell him your sorrows and your frustrations and ask that his will be done in these circumstances.

- B. Secondly, then look to the medical profession. James 5:13-14 says, *"Is any one of you in trouble? You should pray. Is anyone happy? Sing songs of praise. Is any of you sick? He should call the elders"*

of the Church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.” Oil was something that consecrated people to the Lord but it was also a common medicine. So, one interpretation of this passage is to call the elders and take your medicine.

For God has gifted many people in our nation with great skills. And one way he heals today is through the ordinary means of medicine, so make good use of it.

- C. And finally ring the elders. Ask the Church to pray. Let the people of God stand with you in this matter. Today we are too private about these things. We don't want people to know or to worry, we can deal with this on our own. No that's not what the man or woman of faith does. They follow God's word. They commit themselves to God and opens up the doors of the church.

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Will that give you full healing? Maybe. God is capable of that. Will it give you substantial healing? Yes ! As James goes on to say *“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.”* God will answer that prayer. He may not save you from your disease like he didn't save James Montgomery Boice. But he will save you from your sins. He will ultimately heal you. He will forgive you.

Because friends, the Kingdom has come. Not fully yet but it is still breaking in. And the men and women of faith will enjoy the spoils of that kingdom both now and forever more when they put their faith in Jesus.

Song – Nothing but the blood of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4Sd5BL4j0A>

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|--|---|
| <p>1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> | <p>3. This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Chorus</p> |
| <p>2. For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> | <p>4. Glory, glory this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
All my praise for this I bring
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> |

*Chorus: Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Closing. ²“A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” ³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” (Matthew 8: 2-3)