

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
The Mystery of Healing
Lynn Cothorn
April 19, 2009

Points to remember and quotable quotes:

Jesus wants us to pray for healing!

Jesus wants to heal the whole person—physical, inner or emotional, and spiritual.

Like the Gerasene demoniac (Mk 5:1-20), we receive healing sitting at the feet of Jesus.

We're healed to evangelize, worship, and serve Jesus.

We're called to a life of holiness and life of prayer, both of which are essential to our own healing and praying for others' healing.

St. Irenaeus says, "The Glory of God is man fully alive."

St. John Climacus (the Ladder) writes, "Prayer is by nature a dialog and a union of man with God. Its effect is to hold the world together" (274).

Francis McNutt writes, "Faith is important...but if we, in our weakness, do all we can, God will bless us far beyond our merits. Our faith lies in the obedience of praying for the sick, despite our weakness doing the best we can to show forth the mercy of Christ" (McNutt, 132).

Ralph Martin writes, "We exist for union [with God], we were created for union; we were redeemed for eternal union." I would say this is the ultimate purpose of any healing!

From the Gerasene demoniac (Luke 8: 35-39)

People came out to see what had happened and, when they approached Jesus, they discovered the man from whom the demons had come out sitting at his feet. He was clothed and in his right mind, and they were seized with fear.

Those who witnessed it told them how the possessed man had been saved.

The entire population of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them because they were seized with great fear. So he got into a boat and returned.

The man from whom the demons had come out begged to remain with him, but he sent him away, saying,

"Return home and recount what God has done for you." The man went off and proclaimed throughout the whole town what Jesus had done for him.

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Questions for Prayer and Reflection:

1. Jesus gave his disciples authority to drive out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness (Mt 10:1). Reflect on time when you have experienced this authority in your life. Also, ask the Lord to reveal any obstacles or negative thoughts you have in this area (“God won’t heal me/someone else.” “I’m not holy enough.” “I don’t want to be disappointed.”) What keeps you from praying for others or for yourself with great expectation?

2. Ask the Holy Spirit for revelation about God’s healing. Pray for the grace to know the Jesus’ healing power; then spend 30 minutes to an hour with a single scripture. You can try the blind beggar (Lk 18:35+); the paralytic (Mk 2:1+); a demoniac (Lk 4:37+); the crippled woman (Lk 13:10+); man born blind (Jn 9:38+); blind man of Bethsaida (Mk 8:22+); the boy returned to his father (Lk 9:43+); two blind men (Mt. 20:29+); blind Bartimaeus (Mk. 10:46+); Peter’s mother-in-law (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39).

Questions for reflection: Who is the person and what is their condition? What did Jesus do and say? How does the setting affect the healing? What was the result of the healing? How does the person respond to Jesus? Reflect on any words or phrases that speak to you. How can you apply this to your life, prayer, expectations of God?

3. Fr. Michael Scanlon, in *Inner Healing*, suggests that certain attitudes may indicate ways of relating to others and to God. For these, a “heart healing” is needed. Ask the Lord for help in examining your heart and for healing where you need it.

- Judgmental attitude that is harsh and demanding on self and others
- Perfectionist attitude demanding the impossible from self and others
- Pattern of fearing future events
- Sense of aloneness and abandonment at times of decision
- Sense of guilt and compulsion to compete for position and success

Selected Reading

John Climacus, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*

Sr. Briege McKenna, *Miracles Do Happen*

Romano Guardini, *Learning the Virtues that Lead You to God*

Leanne Payne, *Restoring the Christian Soul*

Neil Lozano, *Unbound*

John Wimber, *Power Healing*

Ralph Martin, *The Fulfillment of All Desire*

Francis McNutt, *Healing*