

A Cop-out

Lesson 6 – Outline

- I. God never intended for what Jesus accomplished through His death, burial, and resurrection to be broken up and separated into different elements.
 - A. No, it's actually all a package deal.
 - B. God's will is to heal you just as much as it is to forgive you.
 - C. He wants you to resist sickness and disease just as much as He wants you to resist sin.
- II. Being well seems to be a universal desire.
 - A. Consider the effort people put into getting their bodies well.
 - B. People universally hate sickness and disease.
 - C. That's because God didn't create mankind to die. Death was something man chose, but it wasn't something God chose.
 - D. The Lord originally intended for our bodies to live forever.
 - E. The medical profession really cannot understand why the body doesn't live forever.
 - F. God's original plan was for us never to be sick.
 - G. Sickness was not a part of God's plan—it was part of what we unknowingly chose in the Fall.
 - H. We were created with a God-given desire on the inside of every one of us for health.
- III. Why, then, do some people fight against God being our Healer?
 - A. They'll actually say "You are of the devil" if you believe that the Lord heals today.
 - B. Others may not reject you for laying hands on the sick and believing for them to recover (Mark 16:18). But they would certainly say it's not God's will to heal every single time.
 - C. Although there are many reasons why people are prejudiced, biased, and teach against healing, I believe they all stem from a common root.
- IV. People resist the truth that healing is in the Atonement and they resist that it is God's will to heal every time, because it's convenient to believe that way.
 - A. There may be some sincere people who have been taught wrong, but the bottom line of this teaching against healing is that it's a cop-out.
 - B. It avoids the responsibility that becomes theirs when they accept that God wants them well.

- C. If the Lord has provided healing for us—and it’s obvious that not everybody is healed—then the question arises, “Why aren’t we well?”
 - D. If God wants us well and we aren’t, this means we have to accept some degree of responsibility.
- V. Some people argue, “If God wanted someone healed, then they’d be healed whether you or I prayed for them or not.”
- A. That’s not true either. Consider the forgiveness of sins:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

- B. God’s will is for people to be saved. Yet not everybody is saved.
 - C. He doesn’t want people to be sick either, but they are.
 - D. Certainly, some people are in total rebellion toward the Lord and His ways, and they’re reaping what they’ve sown.
 - E. Yet other people desire healing, and they still fall short.
 - F. They don’t understand how to receive.
 - G. We need to understand and accept our part.
- VI. It’s our failure to accept this responsibility that’s the root of why we fight against healing.
- A. I’m not saying it’s our fault directly, although in some cases it could be.
 - B. Often it’s not an individual’s sin that brought sickness and disease, but mankind’s sin that has corrupted this world.
 - C. It’s the sin that caused germs and viruses, fungi and infections, and the like that were never a part of God’s original plan for mankind.
 - D. They’re perversions of nature that happened through sin, not necessarily individual sin, but the collective sin that has corrupted the entire system.
 - E. Even though it might not be something we did individually that caused sickness, there is always something we can do individually to overcome that perversion and walk in health.
 - F. It’s not God who fails to heal us; it’s us who fail to receive.

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Lesson 6 – Discipleship Questions

1. Read Mark 16:18. Who is saying this?
2. **“They shall lay hands on the sick, and they _____ recover.”**
3. According to 2 Peter 3:9, who is the Lord long-suffering to?
4. If He is not willing that any should perish, what is His will?
5. Read Matthew 7:13-14. Where does Jesus instruct us to enter?
6. How many people find the way that leads to life?
7. According to Romans 10:2-3, the zeal that the Jewish people had was not according to _____.
8. If a person, ignorant of God’s righteousness, goes about to establish their own righteousness, what have they done?
 - A. They have bought the farm.
 - B. They have not submitted to the righteousness of God.
 - C. They have succeeded.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
9. Read 2 Samuel 12:23. Why didn’t David want to fast?
10. According to John 8:32, **“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall _____ you free.”**

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Lesson 6 – Scriptures

Mark 16:18

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Romans 10:2-3

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. [3] For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

2 Samuel 12:23

But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.