

## Theology of Sickness

**Matthew 15:30** And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he **healed** them:

**Luke 7:21** And in that same hour he **cured** many of *their* **infirmities** and **plagues**, and of evil spirits; and unto many *that were* blind he gave sight.

**John 5:1-14** After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of **impotent** folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an **infirmity** thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, **lest a worse thing come unto thee.**

### Introduction

- Sickness seems to hit everyone and their family at some point
- Bad colds, fevers, chronic pain, cancer, covid, viruses, infections

- Some are born with diseases or disabilities – blind, dumb, deaf, downs syndrome, autism, learning disabilities  
**Exodus 4:11** And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?
- Some deal with lifelong issues like diabetes, autoimmune diseases
- Marriage vows include – in sickness and in health – till death do us part
- There are some false doctrines taught that God's will is that no believer ever suffer sickness – the results of sickness tend to be that we don't have enough faith in God for healing (there are many good believers who have been or are sick – and there is no question of their genuine faith in God)
- When we pray for healing and it doesn't come – does that mean that God didn't answer our prayers?

## I. We have sickness in the world because of the effects of sin

### A. Adam's sin brought death, which in turn brought sickness

**Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

1. Through that one act, sin entered the world, and man was plunged into a life of death, disease, and decay

**Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

2. It is therefore inferred that because of their sin (original sin) that sickness, disease and suffering became a reality in the world

**Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:21-22** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

### B. The new heaven and earth will be free from sorrow, sickness and death

**Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**Revelation 22:3** And there shall be **no more curse**: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

## **II. There are times when sickness may be a consequences of your own personal sin**

### **A. Example of Miriam and her sin**

**Numbers 12:9-10** And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

### **B. Example of the Corinthian church believers and dishonoring the Lord's table**

**1 Corinthians 11:29-30** For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

### **C. God can use sickness as personal chastening**

**Hebrews 12:5-6** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

### **D. Some sickness may be due to our own sin**

**James 5:13-15** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

### **E. There are occasions in which the causal connection between sin and sickness is clear. Consider the smoker who contracts lung cancer, the person who is infected with HIV due to unprotected sex, the alcoholic with liver damage**

## **III. There are some sicknesses that are the cause of someone else's sins**

### **A. Example of David and Bathsheba – this young child is taken**

**2 Samuel 12:15-16** And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very

sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

**B.** Example of Abraham and Sarah

**Genesis 12:17** And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

**C.** Sin may impact sickness when a patient is ill not because he or she has sinned, but because that person has been *sinned against*. The person in the ICU who was hit by the drunk driver, the victim of sexual or other forms of assault, and the person who, through negligence, was exposed to dangerous chemicals all have diseases that are the result of someone else's sin

**IV. There are some sicknesses God allows as a test or trial – sometimes these sicknesses come from Satan**

**A.** Example of Job

**Job 2:4-7** And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

**B.** Example of a woman taken with a physical disability

**Luke 13:11** And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*.

**Luke 13:13** And he laid *his* hands on her: and immediately she was **made straight**, and glorified God.

**Luke 13:16** And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

**C.** Example of Paul's thorn in the flesh

**2 Corinthians 12:7** And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

**D.** Sickness doesn't always mean you have sinned

**James 5:15** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and **if** he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

**V. There are some sicknesses that are allowed by God for His reasons only**

**A.** Example of a young man born blind – who sinned?

**John 9:1-3** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

**B.** Example of Lazarus death

**John 11:1; 3-4** Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

**Conclusion**

- Why doesn't God heal? It is not because God doesn't love you or because He didn't hear your prayer or because you didn't have enough faith
- Sometimes we live with pain and suffering all through this life at no fault of our own
- The older our bodies get, the more we are susceptible to disease because of age, energy, strength etc.

**1 Corinthians 15:53-54** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

**1 Corinthians 15:56** The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

- Those who were given supernatural healing in the Bible still perished in their earthly bodies – Lazarus was raised but had to die again
- God does give us ultimate healing in that He gives us eternal life – not in our earthly bodies, but in resurrected spiritual bodies