

## Jesus Appears: To Heal

Luke 8:40-56 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 07 February 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,  
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,  
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.  
– CG Mission Statement*

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**Icebreaker:** What healing story in the Bible moves you the most and why?

**Worship:** [Isaiah 53:4-6](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

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**Sermon Summary for [Luke 8:40-56](#)** (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

The Testimony to Jesus as Healer // Stories of Christ's healings abound in the early chapters of Luke. And it's clear that healing is a core part of the Gospel. God came into humanity to heal every disease and affliction, whether social, psychological, neurological, or physical. When John the Baptist's followers ask Jesus if He is indeed the Messiah, Christ recounts His healing ministry ([Luke 7:22](#)). Jesus makes a similar declaration when He references [Isaiah 61](#) as part of His first sermon in Luke 4. Healing creation matters deeply to God. How are we to respond? The testimony is clear: One of the simplest but most profound things we can do is to pray for healing – from all kinds of affliction – because it is a core part of our Savior's mission; it is the fabric of His Kingdom.

The Touch of Jesus as Healer // In each of these stories, touch is profoundly significant. Combined with healing, it communicates love and a desire to connect. It reinforces God's willingness to meet us where we are, as we are. His touch overcomes our uncleanness. But it's not enough that Jesus comes alongside us in our suffering and heals us when no one else would deal with us or our mess. He heals us by taking the suffering upon Himself ([Isaiah 53:4](#)). Because He didn't just die to put an end to sin's guilt but also to end sin's effects. And so He takes our infirmities, carries them to the cross, and dies for them – ensuring that our healing will be total, complete and everlasting.

The Timing of Jesus as Healer // For many, this is the hardest part (and the greatest mystery) of Jesus' healing. Whether visible or concealed, public or private, known or hidden, each of us lives with pain and brokenness. We endure. Even those who experience wonderful, thorough, miraculous healing must wait for a greater, fuller, lasting healing found in resurrection. But we can trust Christ because He has walked the paths of suffering and waiting with us. We can know that in resurrection all will be made new. There will be no more pain, no more suffering, no more tears. And even the marks of our former brokenness will be part of who we are, just as the scars of Christ's crucifixion were a part of His resurrected body. Because they all point to God's glory and triumph.

But still we are left with questions. Why has God left us waiting? Why is healing only partial or seem to be lacking at this time? This is frustrating and painful ([Luke 7:23](#)). But deep down, we need to know two things: (1) Jesus often uses this kind of timing to increase and strengthen our faith. We see this in these healing stories: ultimately, Christ is after the faith of both of these women and their families. (2) When Jesus waits to give us the physical or social or relational healing we long for, ultimately He is pressing upon us the greatest healing He can offer: His love and forgiveness, which is always available to us. It is always total and immediate because of the cross.

The Tension of Jesus as Healer // Jesus is the great healer. May we know this, yearning for full and complete healing as we cry out to Him. May we delight in His touch – through His word, His sacraments and His people. May we extend that touch to others as we express love and care to them. And may we trust God's timing when it is strange to us, knowing that in this tension between now and when all things will be made new, Jesus is here to forgive us and to mend us in deep ways so that we are ready for new Heavens and new earth. May we know this and therefore delight in the healing love of our Lord.

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**Discussion Questions** (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

- The Testimony to Jesus as Healer:
  - What did Jairus and the Woman both know about Jesus? Compare the expressions of their faith.
  - How does the Bible testify to Jesus as Healer and what diseases and afflictions did He come into humanity to heal? (See [Luke 7:22](#)) How often do you think about Jesus as Healer?
  
- The Touch of Jesus as Healer:
  - Why was touch important for Jesus in bringing healing to those around Him?
  - How does Jesus “touch” us with His healing hand today?
  - How do we extend that touch to others?
  
- The Timing of Jesus as Healer:
  - How do you feel when God’s timing or the outcome doesn’t match your expectations when it comes to healing or answered prayer? Does it draw you closer to Him or further away? Explain.
  - When have you seen God work in your life with (in your opinion) perfect timing? What about when the timing isn’t so perfect? What did you learn about Him and His timing? Did it grow your faith?
  - Discuss the implications of this statement from the message: *Jesus’ mission of healing required His mission of crucifixion*. What is the ultimate healing that is total, immediate, complete and lasting?
  
- What strengthens your faith from this message or passage?

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## Prayer

Who do you know that is experiencing a crisis right now? How can you pray for them? How can you “touch” them to show the love of Christ? Pray for healing and that they might look to Jesus in their situation.

For the weekly Prayer Guide click [HERE](#).

## Engage & Experience: Generous Grace – Love

Reminder from last week: We are enabled to offer extravagant, inexplicable, lavish, generous love because this is how Jesus loves us. We can be generous with our heart because of who we are as followers of Christ.

Loving others the way Christ did means thinking about them the way Christ did, and then manifesting that love outwardly. Scott Mehl in his book, [Loving Messy People](#), defines Gospel care as the “*God exalting, grace saturated art of loving another person, through patiently knowing, sacrificially serving, truthfully speaking and consistently applying the gospel in order to help them become more like Jesus.*” Think of ways you can take the time to know someone better or serve them with the generous love with which you have been loved by Christ.

## Generous Grace Resources

- Book by Scott Mehl, [Loving Messy People](#), [HERE](#)
- Table Talk Article: [Why Should We Be Generous?](#) [HERE](#)
- Book by Miraslav Volf, [Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace](#), [HERE](#)
- Book by Ken Sande, [The PeaceMaker](#), [HERE](#)