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(More Than Just a Nice Guy Series)

“Jesus Is the Healer”, John 4:43-54

In the physical healing of the son of a royal official (John 4:43-54), the writer of John gives us another glimpse into a sign/miracle which reveals Jesus' glory and brings others to believe in Him (John 2:11). Jesus uses moments of struggling, anxiety, and desperation to bring this official and his household into the Kingdom of God on earth and for eternity (John 4:53). Indeed, Jesus uses the physical and emotional hurts of this world to draw us closer to Him. Sometimes God does give us more than we can handle, and if we turn to God, He will give us the grace we need as He fulfills His greater purposes for ourselves and His world.

1. In your hurting, Jesus wants you to come to Him.

God has a way of bringing us in to the end of ourselves in our desperation, and in response we have the opportunity to turn to Him for our needs. Difficulty in life, whether large or small, can be a means of grace because it exposes our weaknesses, shows us our need for a Savior, and can cause us to reach to Jesus for help.

2. In your hurting, Jesus wants you to trust Him.

God truly cares for each one of us (I Peter 5:7), is fully able to heal sickness (as with the official's son), and He answers according to what He knows what is best for us. We turn to Jesus with our requests during tough times, and He is the one who decides how to grow us personally and work out His purposes in the world. Jesus heals in His own way and timing...For the official's son, the physical healing occurred when Jesus simply spoke the words when he and the father were not even present with the young man. The physical healing brought the spiritual healing of the official's entire household when they later recognized the miracle and believed (John 4:53).

3. In your hurting, Jesus wants you to be healed.

Showing His power over sickness and death, Jesus physically healed the official's son, which brought the whole household to salvation. The official never asked for spiritual healing, but Jesus used this difficult situation for the salvation of this official's family, and perhaps many more in the community and throughout the ages, for those who heard this story. Jesus did not heal all people in Israel of their diseases. In His wisdom, Jesus knows that mankind's greatest need is not physical, but spiritual. However, God uses ALL things for good (Rom.8:28), and even uses suffering to bring us closer to Him and work out His ultimate purposes for the world.

In our suffering, we grow closer in intimacy with God, we grow spiritually day by day, we are better equipped to help others in their pain, and we grow in our eternal perspective as our earthly suffering is only temporary because we will live with Jesus eternally in fullness of joy, satisfaction, and peace. May each of us turn to Jesus in our times of struggling with life; may we trust that God's ways are best for our lives; and may we rest in knowing that Jesus cares about every moment of our physical/emotional lives, and by His Spirit helps to grow us spiritually to be more like Himself.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss which hurt drew you closer to Jesus, or how you have seen this in other Christians.

2. Is your faith weakened or strengthened by the struggles you have, & how do you perceive God has or has not responded? Do you see yourself as a part of a larger picture of God's work?
3. Have you ever experienced affliction as GRACE to grow your faith? Explain.
4. When you are desperate, whom do you go to first? Whom do you trust??
5. Who is Jesus to you? A healer, a miracle worker, a calmer of storms, a friend, a brother, a Savior, an historical figure, God? Can you explain who He is in your own words?
6. How can Jesus care if he does not immediately answer our emotional/physical needs?
7. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) What gives peace in our individual lives, in our world? When? How?