

Jesus healing all over the place. Sickness, disease -all a result of this broken creation -the very problem He came to deal with. But you have to wonder, what about now? Sure there are healings, recoveries, yet, which of us hasn't cried to the Lord for help, begging for a miracle and it doesn't come, see nothing.

And so easily become earthly-minded. That we turn the gifts of God into His obligations. That we know better; are more compassionate than God. That His blessings become what we think we deserved, earned; especially if we're nice people and don't stink. We know it in our lives. Why God gives to some and not others. Why God heals some and not others. Why some have it so easy, others one hardship after another. Why children die; others live to 100; why our loved ones die too soon without a healing we pray for. **Why do you question these things in your heart?**

Jesus did not come to temporarily heal bodies that keep wearing out, but to save for eternity. He came **to proclaim the day of salvation in Him**. He goes from town-to-town to preach. **To preach the Word**; to proclaim the day of salvation in Him is worth far more than any physical healings.

Friends bring the Paralytic to Jesus, knowing He's been healing, hoping for a healing. He looks upon their faith; looks at the Paralytic, **your sins are forgiven**. It's a little anticlimactic, disappointing. That's not what they wanted; they wanted a healing. Then Jesus is accused of blasphemy, not for healing, that He exercises authority, forgive sins.

Why is it we are disappointed with 'just' forgiveness, to take this gift lightly, or hold it of lesser importance in your life. We all take this gift for granted. Do you find yourself cherishing things of this world, more than preaching, the proclamation of your sins forgiven. Forgive us Lord.

There's not more to Christianity than the forgiveness of sins. That is it. Oh there are other things but everything flows back to this. If it's of Christianity, than it must be connected to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Who he is, what He has done, how we get it. His Word, Sacraments. Why St. Paul says **I wish to know nothing among you except Christ and Him crucified.**

Which is easier, to forgive sins or miraculously, physically heal? The easier, to say is **rise and walk**. Forgiving sins involves His sacrifice, the healing of the soul. The disease in your soul is so foul, so corrupt, so malignant that it runs deeper than any of our therapies and counseling and 12-step programs can reach.

He doesn't heal the paralytic to show he has authority and power. It's not to prove, "*well I forgave the man and now that I heal him, you should believe me.*" No, rather, it is from the forgiveness of sins proceeds the resurrection of

the flesh. Forgiveness just isn't a spiritual gift, but a physical reality -because you are forgiven, your body will be heal.

The reality is the Paralytic could've remained paralyzed with His sins forgiven. That kind of life -with forgiveness of sins, Our Lord's work, strength, to live with difficulty, to suffer many things, to believe that God is good and just wait until the last day when he would walk again. Do not doubt how your loving Father will tend to you. In this broken, sin-filled creation there will be disease and suffering and He uses them for His good and gracious will unto you. In those things He draws you closer to Him. We don't know why certain healing doesn't come, but whatever happens, trust it is always for your good.

Yet all it takes is, a tragedy or two; or a doctor says, *hum, I'm concerned about this...* and then where are you? Drop your illusions of self-sufficiency, of your own strength and abilities.

Thy Will is Done. Amid things we cannot understand. You may or may not have a lot of nice things in this world. You may or may not receive healing from your struggles and diseases. You may or may not be blessed with children, with a spouse, with long life, with wealth, or anything else you ask for. **Why do you question these things in your heart?**

We lose sight of that greater reality of our Lord's work of forgiveness, in His preached Word, forgiveness of His sacrifice poured out in Sacraments.

That unique body you wear -redeemed by His blood; anointed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, is precious to your God; He will perfect it. He comes to make all things new.

You have sat by the bedside of a loved one, or you will, begging our Lord for a miracle, healing, and it always comes. He always gives it unto you.

There is no reason to stop praying for miracles. Jesus has promised that whatever you ask in His Name He will give you. He answers **Yes!** He may give it to you now. He may hold it for you in heaven. But He will give it. So compassionate He cares to heal even your runny nose; nothing in your life is insignificant to Him. He knows what troubles you. He hears, answers your prayers far greater than you can see or understand.

Who can forgive sins except God alone? You heard Him speak that to you today in the absolution and it now comes from His altar. If your sins are forgiven: you can face anything this world can throw at you. If your sins are forgiven: you can even face disease, any hardship, betrayal, even death. **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.** You are healed through His blood, by His Word, by His preaching. Forgiven, living as His child, to live with issues now and perfected for eternity. What more do you truly need. Jesus is still healing all over the place.