HE SENT HIS WORD AND HEALED THEM

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It says in God's Word that God sent His Word and healed people. For many years I didn't understand what that meant: "God sent His Word and healed people." Then, as I got deeper and deeper in the working of the Bible, I began to see that literally *God's Word* is healing. When we put on His Word in our minds, when we absorb it, when we begin to live it, we receive the greatest healing I know.

Yet, on a greater plane, what does it profit a person to be healthy a lifetime and still lose his soul in the end because he was not born again? Jesus came that all of us might have complete wholeness. "Salvation" and "wholeness" come from one Greek root, *sōzō*, thus salvation means wholeness and wholeness means salvation. When Jesus Christ cleansed the ten lepers, he sent them to the Temple to show themselves to the priests so that the priests could acknowledge, according to the law, that they had been healed. After going to the priest for a clean bill of health, only one returned and gave Jesus Christ credit and thanks. Jesus said that leper was made whole. All ten were healed, but only one was made whole. So there is a lot more to living than just physical health and well-being.

Jesus Christ came that we might have life to the fullest. I know that by his death on the cross, by his shed blood, we have both our remission and forgiveness of sins. Also, by his stripes we were healed. Therefore, the potential for wholeness physically and spiritually is available in Christ Jesus.

Now the thing we as informed believers do – and I see this thing happening or beginning to happen in our community and our country – is to help the spiritual temperature of believing God's Word rise. As we hold forth God's Word and the believers receive that Word and put on the mind of Christ, believing expectation goes up. And when that temperature rises sufficiently, people are delivered mentally, physically, spiritually, financially and every other way so that they are made whole.

This time I want to look for healing at that part of God's Word found in Mark 3. It seems that Jesus Christ could get into what we might consider messy situations without effort. The Pharisees had criticized Jesus, as recorded in the second chapter of Mark, for "working" on the Sabbath. Jesus responded directly that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. From that confrontation, Jesus went into the synagogue. It seems like every time he entered into a synagogue he found himself confronting the religious leaders. The reason he had problems with these leaders is he was endeavoring to put new wine into old bottles. After

all, Jesus Christ had a ministry and that ministry was to Israel. So he had to go into the synagogues, that is where the people of Israel were to be found. He had to give them an opportunity to hear what he had to say. The account in Mark 3 takes up when Jesus entered into the synagogue in Capernaum. There he found a man who had a withered hand. "And they [the Pharisees] watched him [Jesus], whether he would heal him [the man with the withered hand] on the Sabbath day." Now here is a man who as a real need; his hand is withered. The man had a need and he was in the synagogue. That's the place where the Word of God was to be. That's where that sweetness, that tenderness, that love, that kindness, that understanding, that forgiveness was to be. He put himself a layman right at the place where greatness should have been. The man did his best.

Jesus had just told the Pharisees that the Sabbath was made for man and, since the Sabbath was made for man, then the man with the withered hand had the right to have his need met any day of the week including Saturday, the Sabbath. Jesus had just explained this to the religious leaders when he went into their synagogue yet they still watched him to see if he would heal on the Sabbath day, that they might do one thing – accuse him of dealing with a man's problem. Just how devilish and mean can people get? Jesus Christ, God's only-begotten Son – who hadn't done anybody any harm and had always done the will of God – wanted to help a person who needed help, and yet the religious leaders were only interested in accusing Jesus of acting unacceptably to them.

This rends my heart, people, that at the very place where we ought to be able to get help, people sit around to find fault and accuse. It seems to me it is high time that we as Christians bind together and fight the devil instead of fighting each other, because frequently we're just as guilty as the Pharisees when we're caught up in matters other than God's Word and His love.

Now this man in Capernaum had a real need. He was at the place where he should have been to have his needs met, but the people there were not interested in meeting his needs; they were interested in arguing as to whether Jesus operated in the right way at the right time with the correct protocol and all kinds of things that didn't matter under the circumstances. Jesus was not stupid. He knew that they were watching him as to what he would do. But, you see, he did God's will all the time. Had he not ministered to that man after he had revelation, Jesus Christ's ministry would have failed and he could not have been your redeemer and mine. He was the perfect savior because he walked perfectly before God. So, do you know what Jesus did? "…He saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Sand forth."

First of all, it took tremendous courage on Jesus' part to do it. Secondly, put yourself in the shoes of the impaired man. If those Pharisees and leaders are going to be unfair with Jesus, what do you think they're going to do with this man? Look at the courage it took to stand forth, to stand up.

Then Jesus looked around on the people, "And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace." The observers weren't going to open their mouths. They remained silent because they couldn't answer that question without looking foolish.

It took me years to believe the verse which begins, "and when he had looked round about on them with anger…" Jesus Christ looked about on those leaders with anger. He was angry. He was, in our terminology, mad. He was not just some wishy-washy push-over. He was

God's man. He stood. Jesus looked on the unbelievers that day in Capernaum, he stood up for what he believed, and he was angry. Do you know why? Because of the hardness of their hearts. The hardness of people's hearts to God's Word doesn't break our hearts, but it does hurt. Jesus Christ only wanted to share the greatness of God and His Word, but the people in that synagogue who were responsible for that synagogue and its operation had hardened their hearts.

Let's read on. "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand." Jesus was angry when he said to the man "…Stretch forth thine hand…" So God didn't heal that man because Jesus was angry. Is that right? You haven't read the record, then.

Jesus said to the man "…Stretch forth thine hand…" That is all the Word of God that man had. His hand was withered. He couldn't do anything with it when Jesus commanded him to stretch it forth. Now ladies and gentlemen, that is an impossibility. But we've got a *possible* God. And God is bigger than all impossibilities, for with God all things are possible. He makes us more than conquerors; He gave us eternal life. I hear people say, "Well, I want to see a miracle. I want to see a person healed." You've seen the greatest miracle in the world if you will just look in the mirror. For when you got born again, you were raised from death unto life. And to raise a dead person is no small miracle, is it?

I don't understand a lot of things, but I know from the Word that our God is able to deliver. I don't care what the fiery furnaces of life may be, our God is able to deliver. I learned long ago that all of us have our furnaces. Many times when you see a person in a wheelchair or you see a blind person, you immediately think what poor shape they're in. I never think that. I only see the potential of the greatness of our God. Besides, a lot of people I haven't seen in wheelchairs I have read about shortly afterwards in the obituaries, while the wheelchair patient was still alive. You see, really I don't know very much but I know God and God knows a lot. I know a God that is a God of love; I know a God who is a God of forgiveness, a God of understanding, a God of peace, a God of righteousness, a God that puts joy in the soul of a man or a woman an makes it possible for him or her to lay down at night without any fear or frustration and get a tremendous night's sleep.

Four words is all that man in Capernaum had: "…Stretch forth thy hand…" That is all he needed. But you know something? Those were just words. He could have responded to Jesus' command by saying, "Look, my Mom's been telling me to do that for years." But he didn't. He believed that the words of Jesus Christ were truth to him, that Jesus Christ meant what he said and said what he meant. Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch forth thine hand. And he [the man] stretched *it* out…" Don't ask me to explain it. That is all I know about it. That is the Word. I don't know any more. He said to the man, stretch forth thine hand and he stretched it forth. Then "…his hand was restored whole as the other," and right then and there the heads of the synagogue had a meeting. They immediately "…went forth, and straightway took counsel [not only with themselves, but with the king's men] with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him [Jesus]." All Jesus had done was to be good to a man in need. He didn't hurt the man and he didn't steal from the synagogue's collection plates. He didn't do that, yet all they wanted to do was to desry Jesus. The Herodians, the top brass in government, and the leaders of the synagogue, tried to figure out how they might destroy this one man who was doing nothing but good.

Mark 3:7-12:

[7] But Jesus withdrew himself [because he was afraid? – no, because of revelation] with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,

[8] And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and *from* beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

[9] And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

[10] For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed [rushed] upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

[11] And unclean spirits [that were in some of those people], when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

[12] And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

Why did he do that? Word of Knowledge. It doesn't say that Jesus cast out the devil spirits at that time, does it? Unless you understand Word of Knowledge and the other manifestations of the spirit, the Bible is so unclear. But when you see the walk of a man of God like Jesus Christ, just walking with the Father in alignment and harmony, knowing what is going on but not having the go-sign to take any devil spirits out, we see how only God knows and must give us instructions for each situation. He simply charged them "…that they should not make him known." The devil spirits had made him known by saying, "Thou art the son of God."

Mark 3:13-15:

[13] And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth *unto him* whom he would: and they came unto him.

[14] And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

[15] And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

As soon as Jesus had delivered the man with the withered hand, followed by healing many others, the Herodians started to apply pressure to stop Jesus. But God simply said to him, "You had better leave town and go up in the mountains." Jesus didn't go up because he was afraid. He went because he had revelation.

According to verse 13, Jesus called people up to the mountain with him "…and they came unto him." And out of that group that came, "…he ordained twelve, that they should be with him…that he might send them forth to preach." Later on in the Word it says that Jesus sent the twelve out. Wherever these men went they brought deliverance to people because they were speaking the Word. And wherever people truly hear the Word, they are delivered.

Does it say in Mark 3 regarding the man with the withered hand that Jesus laid his hands on him? No, he never touched him. I believe he simply said to the man, "Stretch forth thine hand," and the man believed what he said and did it. Jesus didn't touch him. That is why later

many were healed, as it says, "For he had healed many…: He healed many in that synagogue because of the level of the believing temperature – in spite of the leaders. The leaders could not control the people's believing. It is the common folk that raised the temperature. No matter what the leaders said, the signs, miracles and wonders continued. Even though the leaders went to political leaders, they couldn't deter Jesus from doing God's work. God's healing will move when common people, just like us, believe and begin to move. The greatest healing I know is the hearing of God's Word. When the Word is taught and people believe that Word, then they get deliverance. The Word brings healing. There is no man living that could minister to all of you; I know I'd never get the job done. But a person can teach God's Word to thousands, and thousands can be delivered when that temperature of believing rises so when they hear the Word they appropriate it to themselves. Do you understand what I am saying It is that simple. I want you to see from the record in Mark 3 that Jesus Christ ministered to the man simply by giving him God's Word. After that, many more were healed because of the spiritual temperature, the whole level of believing, was so fantastic after they heard the Word. That is what I expect to see among believers – those who have a need in a category can have the need met just with the teaching of this wonderful Word of God.