

Pastor David's notes for 5/22-23/2010

Pushing Back The Darkness

Remedying Disease

"When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel - each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands toward this temple - then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act; deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of all men), so that they will fear you all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers."

1 Kings 8:37-40

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 9:35-10:1

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"Remedying Disease"

Three key Biblical truths about disease, illness, injury, disability, aging, and every painful and troubling limitation we have to face in this life:

1. it is our reality
2. it won't always be our reality
3. disease requires a remedying strategy

A godly strategy for remedying disease would tell us:

1. take personal responsibility
2. don't buy or sell snake oil
3. exercise both faith and wisdom
4. never surrender hope

next weekend: "@ the Crossroads of Life" - Pastor Jason



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“Remedying Disease” - 1 Kings 8:37-40; Matthew 9:35-10:1;
1 Timothy 5:23; John 9:1-3; James 5:14-16

1. At the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem, King Solomon prayed that God would “forgive and act” whenever His people called on Him in that place, “whatever disaster or disease may come” (1 Kings 8:37-40). The end result of each person’s turning to God with an awareness of “the afflictions of his/her own heart” Solomom prayed, would be that they would learn to “fear” Him; really know God as God. Our struggle with disease can either bring darkness and distance into our lives, or it can bring God’s light and truth up close and personal. And not just in the experience or outcome of healing, but in the struggle with weakness, limitation and pain. The vulnerability and fraility of this life affords abundant opportunity to connect with the greater life of God. Can you think of examples in the Bible of this where people deeply connected to God in their illness or suffering? Do you have occasions in your own life where your “disaster or disease” caused you to connect with God in a real way?

2. To broken lives in a broken world, Jesus came to redeem, heal and transform. He carries the help and hope of God in this present age and the promise of glorious, whole and lasting life in the eternity to come. How does this ultimate promise of healing touch our present struggle with disease? Do you carry with your faith in Jesus this hope of final freedom?

3. In trying to determine the root cause of a certain man’s blindness, the disciples asked Jesus if it was the result of his sin or that of his parents (John 9:1-3). Jesus responded that it was neither, but his hardship was an opportunity for “the work of God to be displayed in his life”. To view illness, disease, injury and disability as situations in which God can “work” is a remarkable and distinctive viewpoint of Jesus. Do you share this point of view? How does our desire to assign blame for someone’s condition get in the way of acting compassionately and effectively toward them?

4. Paul encouraged his young co-worker Timothy to “stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses” (1 Tim 5:23). Apparently significant Christian leaders had to both battle frequent illness, and apply wisdom as well as prayer and faith to their own struggles. Where does wisdom fit in terms of diet, medical treatment, natural remedies, etc. in your fight with disease? Is wisdom a substitute for faith, or another aspect of faith?

5. James teaches that if we are sick we should have leaders in the church pray and annoint us for healing (James 5:14-16). Is this something you are open to receiving? Why or why not? Why would God want us to connect with the church and its leadership as part of His healing plan?
