



The Book of Matthew Lesson 4 2Q 2016 “Get Up and Walk!” Faith and Healing

I received this email from an online listener in Canada:

Bedtime again, and I've got the computer tuned to your "station", to the Bible study discussions. I'll turn it on, crawl into bed, and be asleep within 10 minutes. You might interpret that as an insult, as a suggestion that your discussions are boring or soporific in nature - but no. It is such a comfort to know that God is not standing by waiting to record every misdeed, every selfish thought.

I grew up imagining myself in that famous art piece: the ten commandments looming over the scene, God judging me, Jesus standing beside me - but how could he stand beside me when I'd betrayed him so many times?

Your totally sensible message that God is the Great Physician, anxious to heal me, anxious to pick me up when I fall, anxious to change my mindset so that I will turn from loving self to loving others, is such a comforting message. I need not fear the judgment day anymore than I need to fear going to an earthly physician.

Having fallen asleep within 10 minutes, I often awaken at 3 or 4 a.m. and retune the discussion, sometimes doing that several times during the night, until by morning I stay awake listening to the whole wonderfully healing and encouraging message.

Not only do the discussions encourage me, but now I read the Bible and the little red books with a totally different mindset.

So, thank you for your ministry (and thank you to those who make it possible) - and for the restful sleeps I now enjoy.

Good night and God bless!

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “If you made a list...” Have any of you struggled with the fear of death? If you have it means—you are human: Heb 2:14,15:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.



How does the death of Christ free us who are held in the slavery of the fear of death?

Did you know that the fear of death is what triggered the entire religion of Buddhism?

- Buddha left the confines of his luxurious apartments, and encounters for the first time in his life:
 - A decrepit old man.
 - A severely ill man.
 - A corpse being carried to the funeral pyre by mourners.
- Buddha realizes his mortality and experiences fear of death.

How did Buddha deal with his fear of death?

- Buddha dealt with this fear of death by Eastern Meditation, seeking to avoid the fear by looking inward, causing an altered state of brain function of suppressed left cortex function, which allows one to enter a state of disconnect with reality. But, does such meditation actually change the condition which causes death?

Did Jesus also face the fear of death? When?

Then he [Jesus] said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” MT 26:38,39

What did Jesus do when He faced death? Did He turn inward to an emptying meditation allowing Him to avoid reality and experience a false comfort?

No—Jesus realized why humanity faced death—why? Why does humanity face death?

Because it is out of harmony with the law—protocols—upon which life is constructed. Life is built to operate upon other centered love, beneficence and giving. Sin is violation of this design, it is fear and selfishness, and breaks the circle of life, resulting in death.

Humanity is in a terminal condition—dead in trespass and sin. So, what Christ faced was something entirely different than any human being ever. Every human being before Christ had only the infection of fear and selfishness with a character warped. But Jesus had a different choice, what was Jesus’ choice?

He had three options 1. accept Satan which He would never do, but it was an option. 2. Abandon humanity to its fate—eternal death—and return to heaven, or 3. Cure the condition, fix what was wrong in the nature and character of humankind and thereby provide the remedy to all who would accept it.



But how—how would Christ be able to provide a remedy? He had to partake of the condition and destroy the death-causing infection and develop a perfect, sinless human character. The only way to accomplish this was to face death, and rather than avoid the fear of it through meditation as Buddha had done, to overcome it with love!

When did Christ face this battle to surrender in love or act to save self? His first battle was in the desert when he was tempted to act in self interest, use divine power make bread for himself (sensualism), brag or show off (egotism), or seek advancement for himself (materialism).

But the ultimate battle came where?

In Gethsemane, listen to this description from the *Desire of Ages*:

The disciples awakened at the voice of Jesus, but they hardly knew Him, His face was so changed by anguish... {DA 689.2}

Again the Son of God was seized with superhuman agony, and fainting and exhausted, He staggered back to the place of His former struggle. His suffering was even greater than before. As the agony of soul came upon Him, "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."... {DA 689.3}

... Jesus sought again His retreat, and fell prostrate, overcome by the horror of a great darkness. **The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour.** [Why is this significant? Because He was forging a new humanity, destroying the infection of fear and selfishness and restoring God's character/law of love] He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul. **The awful moment had come--that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance.** [What was the choice that made the fate of humanity hang in the balance?] Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. [What is the penalty of sin? Notice not the punishment of God, this is quite significant. It is the penalty that sin brings, which is transgressing God's design law. It would be like saying someone who refuses to drink receives the penalty of dehydration and eventual death] Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." {DA 690.2}

Three times has He uttered that prayer. **Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice.** [what is Christ experiencing? Temptation to save self. From where is the



temptation arising? From the humanity of which He partook] But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. **He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish.** [Why must they perish? Is it because if Jesus doesn't die God would be either unwilling or legally unable to forgive them? No! It is because if Christ doesn't complete His mission there will be no remedy to provide that will heal human beings from their terminal condition!] **He sees the helplessness of man.** [How are we helpless? We are helpless to cure ourselves!] He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. [which means what? Propitiate, means to conciliate, which means to make favorable, which means...he makes the race favorable, how, by what? By fixing what is broken, by eradicating the carnal nature (fear and selfishness) and perfecting humanity back to God's original design!] His prayer now breathes only submission: "If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." {DA 690.3}

Having made the decision, He fell dying to the ground from which He had partially risen. [What is happening? Why is he dying here? Has any being laid a hand on Him? He chose love! He chose to surrender and not save self! He chose to give himself thus in Christ human character is restored back to God's perfect design for life.] Where now were His disciples, to place their hands tenderly beneath the head of their fainting Master, and bathe that brow, marred indeed more than the sons of men? The Saviour trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him. {DA 693.1}

But God suffered with His Son. [How did God suffering with His Son? Why did the Father not step in? What is the Father's goal? What does the Father want to happen? God was in the Son reconciling the world to himself. The Father wants to see humanity cured. Thus, as horrible as it is to watch, the Father is pleased to allow this to happen for the same reason Jesus is "for the joy set before him he endured the cross." It was the only way to cure our condition.] Angels beheld the Saviour's agony. They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread. [From where is the dread originating? What are satanic forces doing?] There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin...[Why was the Father separating His beams from the Son? Was it because the Father disapproved of Jesus? Was it because the Father was angry at Jesus? Was it because the Father was venting wrath and anger on Jesus? Was it because the Father was hurting Jesus? Or was it because it was the only way for Christ to complete His mission of healing humanity and providing Remedy? Could Christ complete his mission of destroying the infection of fear and selfishness (carnal nature) without dying?



Could He die as long as the Father kept His life-giving energy flowing into Jesus? No—God had to separate Himself from His Son, in order for Jesus to be able to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness. The only way to do this was for Jesus to partake of the infection, experience the temptation to save self, but choose, with His human brain to love, to surrender self, to refuse to use power to save Himself, all the way unto death. And in so doing Jesus would rid His humanity of the infection and rise again in a new humanity perfected back to God's original ideal. The only way to do this was to die—and thus God had to separate Himself from His Son and allow that process to take place. This was a terrible experience for our Infinite God, for them to experience this separation. But there was NEVER any punishment inflicted from the Father and NEVER any legal payment going on! {DA 693.2}

The worlds unfallen and the heavenly angels had watched with intense interest as **the conflict drew to its close**. [Close where? He hadn't been crucified yet, why a close? The earth has persisted for 2000 years since then, so what does it mean drew to a close? Because the decision was made by Jesus which ensures the outcome!] Satan and his confederacy of evil, the legions of apostasy, watched intently this great crisis in the work of redemption. The powers of good and evil waited to see what answer would come to Christ's thrice-repeated prayer. Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. **No way of escape was found for the Son of God**. [Why? Because there is no way to change God's character, design, methods, law—how He constructed life, the only way to fix what Adam did was through this path] In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. **The angel came not to take the cup from Christ's hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love. He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant**. [This did not reduce Christ's suffering, but extended it because He didn't die there, but suffered throughout the rest of the weekend. And how was Jesus strengthened? Note how—] **He pointed Him to the open heavens, telling Him of the souls that would be saved as the result of His sufferings**. [It was the power of love—showing Jesus the people who would be saved is what aroused the love in His heart and empowered Him to endure!] He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan, and that the kingdom of this world would be given to the saints of the Most High. He told Him that He would see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied, for **He would see a multitude of the human race saved, eternally saved**. {DA 693.3}

Christ's agony did not cease, but His depression and discouragement left Him. The storm had in nowise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; **for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man**. {DA 694.1} [When did Jesus taste the suffering of death for every man? In Gethsemane!]



Do we need to fear death? Why or why not?

Read last paragraph, “Despite all its...” Why has the plan of salvation not spared us from the earthly death?

The death the Bible calls sleep is a merciful limit to a life of sin. This first death experience is not the enemy—eternal death is the enemy. First death is an artificial state, permitted by God’s grace, to limit evil, limit suffering, and allow God’s healing plan to progress.

Consider what the earth would be like if humans lived only as long as the antediluvians did? What would the earth be like if humans lived 900 years today? Do you think the kind, benevolent, patient and tender would survive?

They didn’t in Noah’s day. In Noah’s day it got to the point there was only one righteous man living on the entire earth. And then when Jesus was on earth, the world could only tolerate Him for 33 years and they killed Him.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “After preaching...” I am glad the lesson said leprosy was “one of the greatest examples of just how wretched and fallen Satan’s realm had become” because it is not *the* greatest example—what are greater examples than leprosy?

- The callousness and lack of love in the hearts of people—how Christ was treated by the religious leaders for instance, how the leaders treated lepers was a greater demonstration of the wretchedness of humanity than the leprosy itself.
- Demoniacs were much more wretched than lepers

Is leprosy sin? Is selfishness and meanness to others sin? So which is more wretched, leprosy—a physical illness—or the hardness of a selfish heart?

Why was leprosy chosen as a *metaphor* for sin? Because leprosy damages the nerves which transmit pain, thus the person becomes “numb” “callous” and *all* the subsequent damage and destruction is *self-inflicted*. This is a perfect metaphor for sin, which sears the conscience, hardens the heart and results in people destroying themselves!

Read third paragraph, “The fact...” What was Jesus revealing by touching the leper? This was a powerful demonstration that when the perfection of Jesus touches the wretchedness of our sinfulness, the sinfulness is cured, the defective are perfected, the defiled is made pure.

My sister emailed me this last evening:



Jesus almost always made a point of touching the sick individual when healing. If you look at how much symbolism was used in the Old Testament and think about Christ healing on earth being symbolic for something more than just showing his power it can be pretty eye opening. He was compelled to do all this healing while here on earth because it represented what he is doing for us now in the temple of heaven. Taking on our sins, absorbing them within himself, and cleansing us by his perfection to make us whole again. Thus, the need to touch the leper and provide healing. Instead of looking at each individual story of healing if you look at all of them in their entirety and ask what was it representative of it is pretty clear. He was trying to communicate his true purpose or intervention.

What implication does this have when we consider the impact that the “blood” of the sacrifice has when it comes into contact with something? In Scripture the blood of the sacrificial animal always cleansed, always made holy, always purified, it NEVER defiled anything. This was demonstrated when Jesus touched the leper. It reveals the reality that Jesus has become human, He has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin, He has partaken of our humanity and He has cured it!

Read next paragraph, “The work of Christ...” Did you notice the language used? “Thus it is with the *leprosy of sin*,—deep-rooted, deadly, and *impossible to be cleansed* by human power.”

Do you notice she doesn’t say, impossible to be forgiven, or legally pardoned, but cleansed, cured, renewed, made whole!

Sin is a condition of being that is out of harmony with God and His design for life. We need healing and restoration, and that is what God accomplishes through Christ.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “There’s a good reason...” What is the good reason Daniel spends so much time dealing with Rome?

Could it be because it would be the primary agent to infect Christianity with the false law construct that the entire world still accepts?

But regarding the Roman centurion who seeks healing for his servant, what do you think of the story?

What lessons are learned? That humans cannot change design laws, that the servant was struggling with a health problem and no legislative action from the organized government could fix it. He needed the Designer to fix what was wrong. Further Jesus is not a racist—Jesus is here to save all human beings regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion, etc.

Read MT 8:10-12:



When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

What does it mean?

Here it is from *The Remedy*:

When Jesus heard such confidence and understanding, he was deeply moved and said to those with him: "I tell you plainly, I haven't found one person in all Israel with such unshakable confidence.¹¹ Understand this clearly: There will be many who come from other cultures around the world who will feast together in heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.¹² But many others, who—because of ancestry or upbringing—considered themselves members of God's family, will be abandoned into eternal darkness, with great weeping and heartache."

What is happening? What determines who is feasting in heaven and who is left out?

- Nationality?
- Race?
- Legal adjustment of one's standing?
- Partaking of rituals?
- Day of worship?
- Membership in a particular organization?

It all comes down to: who has had selfishness replaced with love in their character—or another way to say it, who has been reborn, recreated, renewed, who is like Jesus in character, who has been healed and transformed by partaking of Jesus via the work of the Holy Spirit.

TUESDAY

MT 8:25-34 recounts Jesus calming the storm and Jesus casting the demons out of the man and into the herd of swine.

The lesson asks, “What do both of these accounts teach us about the power of God? How can we draw comfort from what we see here about His power, especially as we struggle with things so much greater than ourselves?”

What do you learn about God's power?

What kind of power was being used? What was God's power used upon? Did God use power to change hearts and minds?



Can God win what he wants to win by the use of power?

What are some of the ways people get confused today over God's power?

Consider the different types of power:

- Coercive power—where does it originate? Does God use it?
- Inducing power, bribes—where does it originate? Does God use it?
- Deceiving power—where does it originate? Does God use it?
- The power of love—where does it originate? Does God use it?
- The power of truth and love—where does it originate?
- Restraining power—what is restraining power? It is when one intelligence, who has superior understanding, intervenes in the freewill choices of another to alter outcomes. Examples: parents restraining a child running into the street; health officials quarantining a person with Ebola infection; mental health officials forcibly restraining and medicating a violent psychotic individual; God holding back evil forces or restraining them from entering a man's mind.

What are the limitations on God's power?

Are there things God cannot do?

- Can God save a person against that person's will? Why not?
- What does it mean to be saved? It means to have a change of heart where selfishness and fear are replaced by love and trust.
- Can God eradicate selfishness and fear from a person and instill love and trust by use of might and power?
- If God were to overwrite your personal choices and program you with love and trust, would you still be you? No, while He has the power to do so, such an act would 1. destroy your individuality and 2. be a violation of God's very nature, character and law of love and liberty.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson is about the paralytic, and Jesus speaking that his sins were forgiven before healing the man.

Read second paragraph, "How fascinating..." What are the lessons?

How much of his suffering was from unforgiven sin versus how much was from his *belief* that his physical sickness was proof that he had unforgiven sin?

Today, how many suffer with illness, and on top of that problem have the additional burden of believing it proves they are unforgiven sinners?



When was this man forgiven by God? Was God withholding forgiveness until Jesus saw the man and was moved by his pitiful state? Was God withholding forgiveness until Jesus asked Him to forgive the man?

What was the obstacle to the man being forgiven—was there an obstacle on God’s side? Was there an obstacle on the man’s side? What obstacle?

How many people today suffer in the same way, not experiencing forgiveness because of believing some lie about God or themselves, that God won’t forgive, or they are too sinful for God to forgive, or God requires some payment to forgive, or their sickness is evidence God hasn’t forgiven etc?

Read last paragraph, “A Seventh-day Adventist pastor...” Were most of the miracles of the Bible done for the strong in faith or for the weak in faith?

- Plagues of Egypt
- Thundering at Sinai
- Water from the rock
- Gideon and the fleece
- Fire at Carmel

What about the Apostles, when they were miraculously delivered from prison, was it primarily for their benefit, or so they could be a benefit to others?

THURSDAY

The lesson examines the story of a person saying he would follow Jesus after he went home to bury his father. And Jesus said, “let the dead bury the dead.”

What do you think it means “let the dead bury the dead?”

The lesson points out that one interpretation is that the man’s father wasn’t dead yet, and the person was saying to Jesus that he needed to wait until he got his inheritance in order to follow Jesus.

But, I think there is another application, one I have had to use with many patients who have struggled with grief. I have some patients who get stuck in grief, for years and years, sometimes decades and they are still grieving and can’t seem to heal. They have not reengaged in life, but have allowed themselves to sit with the dead. They have neglected their living children in order to grieve the dead child.

So, could this text also mean let the dead bury the dead, but the living need to engage with the living. The living have real work to do for the good of others?



Read Matt 9:13 “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

What does the text mean? Why does Jesus want mercy rather than sacrifice? Because the sacrifices in the OT were symbolic of cleansing the heart and restoring love into it. Thus mercy was a fruit of a heart being cleansed. Sacrifices were merely acted out symbols, not reality.

Read bottom pink section, “Though the context is different, how does the principle apply even today, even when we substitute the idea of animal sacrifice with the sacrifice of Jesus? That is, how can we be careful that we don’t let religious beliefs or practices, no matter how right, get in the way of doing what really matters to God?”

What really matters to God?

FRIDAY

read and discuss question 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Request for Stories: Dr. Jennings is working on a new book on the power of love to transform lives. **He is seeking stories of how love was transformational in a person's life.** This could be by experiencing the truth about God's love and coming to understand His character of love, or by experiencing love through how someone treated you.

Please understand the following regarding submitting your story:

1. Submitting a story does not guarantee it will be included in the upcoming book (not all stories will fit with the flow of the book, the publishers and editors will have a say in what stories are included). Just because a story is not included doesn't mean the story is not valuable, only that it did not fit with the flow of this particular book.
2. Please limit the story to 1500 words
3. When you submit the story please include the following signed statement:
 - a. This story is mine to share and I authorize Timothy Jennings to use this story in any of his books in all formats without expectation of any compensation.
4. Please indicate one of the following:
 - a. I **do not** want my real name to be used. Please change the pertinent details to protect my confidentiality.
 - b. I **do** want my real name used. Please keep the pertinent details accurate to me.

If you would like to submit a story please email it to: stories@comeandreason.com

Dr. Jennings has been named a *Champion of Health* by True Health Broadcasting Network in association with Health Institute for Preventive Care, Access, Research and Education (HIPCARE) and True Health TV and will be presented with the "*Legacy Champion of Health*" award at a Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Atlanta, Georgia.

This award is being presented to Dr. Jennings, as it states in the award letter, "because of your unselfish commitment to community health exemplified by your leadership in the community and as author of "*The God-shaped Brain*" and "*Could it be this Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*".

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a **HARD COVER book at Amazon** as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.



May 18-20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at *The Struggle Is Real* Conference at Seacoast Church in Charleston SC, for more info and to register click this link <http://www.2016summit.net>

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Cape Town, South Africa