



Welcome to our All Age Worship Service (28/03/21)

Jesus Can Heal You Everywhere You Hurt

Prepared by Matt & Grace

Oh, to see the dawn, of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten
Then nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus

*This, the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross*

Oh, to see the pain, written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of all my sin
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

Now the daylight flees
And now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life
"Finished, " the victory cry

And oh, to see my name, written in the wounds
For through Your suffering I am free
And death is crushed to death
And life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

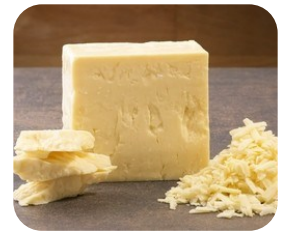
And this, the power of that old rugged cross
Son of God, slain for us
What a love, what a cost
We stand forgiven at, we stand forgiven at
We stand forgiven at the cross. (Getty Music)

Welcome to Croftlands Community Church's All Age Worship Service on Sunday the 28th of March 2021, Palm Sunday. We do hope that you are well, but today we also want to encourage those of you who are not well, in whatever way that might be. Because we're going to be exploring the subject of healing, and we've given the service the title of Jesus can heal you everywhere you hurt. The dictionary lists healing as simply being 'the process of making or becoming sound or healthy again', but a great definition of healing from a Christian point of view is **'to restore godly order, to make whole and healthy, to restore to health or good condition, to replace turmoil and confusion with peace and to deal with blockages that hinder the sanctification process.'** But before we delve deeper into this subject, we're going to begin our service with a time of prayer.

Happy Birthday Matt

(30th Mar)

**God
Bless
You!**



GRACE'S PRAYER God, even though you are always with us, there are times when we don't feel close to you. We pray that this morning every one of us will feel your loving presence. We pray for those of us who are feeling down, lonely or discouraged, please will you send your Holy Spirit to provide encouragement and peace to those people this morning. Thankyou that you love us so much, help us to love you back by worshipping you this morning in spirit and in truth. Amen.



MATT'S PRAYER God, this morning we are thinking about the ways that you - through your son Jesus - are able to heal us, in our body, mind and spirit. During this service please reveal to us those areas of our life where we are in need of your healing touch, and please will you send your Holy Spirit to provide healing in those areas. Thankyou that you care about us and are interested in all the different areas of our lives. Amen.

SAMUEL'S PRAYER Dear God, thankyou that we are able to go to school and see our friends again, but we pray for those people who are still feeling lonely. Please look after those people, and please also help us to be a good friend to all of our neighbours. Thankyou for school, thankyou for our friends, and thankyou that we live in a beautiful area of the world with lots of lovely walks and beaches. Amen.

TODAY IS PALM SUNDAY, when Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey. And by this time, Jesus had already built up quite a reputation. Mark Chapter 11 tells us that the Jerusalem crowds welcomed Jesus by spreading their garments on the road ahead of him, and by waving leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus rode alongside a thick procession of people, who were shouting things like **“Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!”**



At this point in Jesus' ministry he had already performed many miracles, including turning water into wine, catching fish, calming storms and feeding thousands of people. He had also already healed many different people from many different walks of life, and we're now going to briefly focus on just one of those healings. **JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA** When Jesus came to Bethsaida, a town in Galilee, he was asked to heal a blind man.

Let's read this now in Mark Chapter 8 verses 22 to 26:

When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?" The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around." Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Don't go back into the village on your way home."



The four gospels of course contain many accounts of Jesus carrying out divine acts of healing. Many are told in two or more gospels, but some - such as the one we've just read - are written about only once. And this particular healing is unique. Because in every other instance of Jesus carrying out healing the miracle occurs on his first effort, but in this case the first touch of Christ does not fully heal the eyes of the blind man. Why is that? Jesus did not make mistakes and was not at fault for the miracle not occurring on his first attempt. So we can only assume that there was a need for this healing to occur partially on Jesus' first touch, and completely on his second.



Most biblical commentators have interpreted this as a lack of faith on behalf of the blind man. The reason for the partial healing on Jesus's first touch was to increase the faith of the man who was being healed. The man's faith grew as he understood that Jesus was not just restoring his sight, he was also touching his heart. Jesus' actions helped the man to step over the line from unbelief to belief.

JESUS CAN HEAL YOU EVERYWHERE YOU HURT Today, as well as talking about specific areas of our lives where we might need healing - like our sight - we're going to have a very brief look at the subject of healing as a whole. Because as the title of today's service says, Jesus can heal you everywhere you hurt.

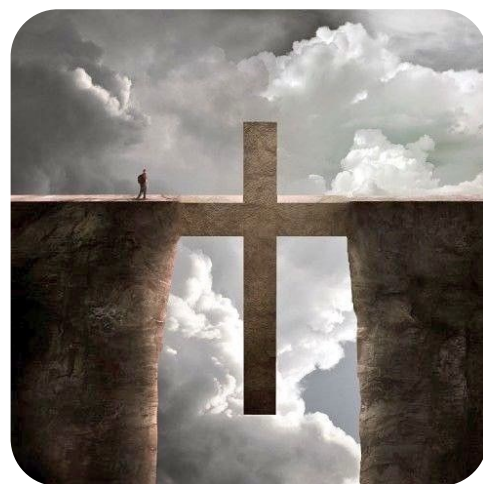
Let's pray before we begin. God, as we explore the subject of healing, we pray that we will see healing in our own lives. You know us better than anyone else knows us. You know us better than we know ourselves. So please will you reveal to us, and work on, those areas in our lives where we need your healing touch. Whether we need healing in our bodies, minds, emotions or spirit, we ask that you will send your Holy Spirit to minister to us today. Amen.

However and whatever we explore on the subject of healing, we can be reassured that God wants to heal us, and because of Jesus, and through his Holy Spirit, He can and does bring healing. There are many verses in the Bible that talk about God healing us, strengthening us, giving sight to the blind, taking away sickness, wiping our tears, taking away our pain, restoring us, giving us rest, increasing our power, rescuing us, binding up our wounds, protecting us from disease, freeing us from suffering, hearing our prayers, protecting us, mending us, reviving the exhausted, strengthening those who are bent, holding us up.



There are verses in the Bible that mention all of those things. But a particular verse we're going to look at this morning is one that reminds us that what we're talking about today was made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus, which we will of course be celebrating next week on Easter Sunday.

1 Peter Chapter 2 verse 24 says: **He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.** It's worth reminding ourselves of that from the start. It's when we start a relationship with Jesus and transfer our sins over to the cross of Christ by asking God for forgiveness that we open the door for healing in our lives. God can heal anyone, Christians and non-Christians, but the most important thing we can do for our own spiritual health is to maintain our relationship with God through his son Jesus.



If you are in pain this morning, whether that be physically or emotionally, we want you to feel encouraged. Some people are healed of massive things - addictions or lifelong health issues - the moment they encounter God, but for others it can be a much longer journey. We heard earlier how Jesus' partial healing increased the faith of the blind man at Bethsaida, and I'm sure that some of you have stories of how the healing touch of Jesus has increased your faith. We are all different and God is able to deal with us all individually. Some people, before they knew God, lived lives where they didn't get themselves into too much trouble. Other people may have gotten involved in things that had big negative consequences in their lives. Some people may have been sinned against in a big way, others may have been involved in some kind of traumatic event that had massive repercussions.

It's worth remembering that the fact of sin and the consequence of sin are two different things. When we confess our sins and invite Jesus into our lives we are completely forgiven, but the consequence of sin in our lives might take longer to unravel.

As we saw in the passage in Mark Chapter 8, small instances of healing can lead to big increases in faith, which opens up the door for more healing in our lives. We have all experienced hurt and pain - to a greater or lesser degree - in many different ways. And this of course started in the garden of Eden, when man co-operated with Satan and lost his dominion over the earth.

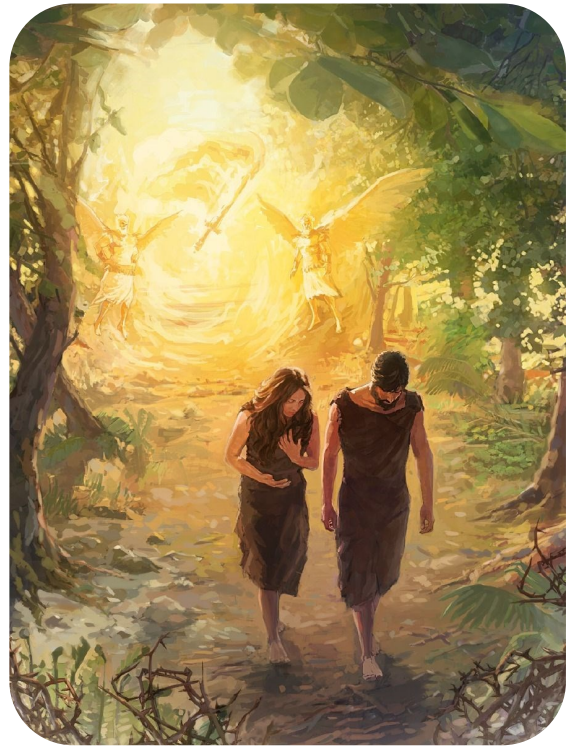
1 John Chapter 5 verse 19 says We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. Death became part of mankind's world, affecting every aspect of our lives. It was a Spiritual death because of our separation from God, which had negative knock-on effects in our soul and in our body. Because we are all made up of body, soul and spirit, as is written about in a number of different areas in the Bible.

For example in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 verse 23, which says: **Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.** Our body is our physical self and our soul is our mind, our emotions and our will. Together our body and soul make up our carnal nature. Our spirit is how we communicate with God and it feeds life into our body and soul. Physical decay, infirmity and death were the result of that spiritual separation from God which began in the garden of Eden, and our soul and body can be affected as we create different kinds of coping mechanisms in an attempt to cover up the hurt and pain in our lives.

But - and it's a big but, a massive but, a powerful but - God wants to undo all of the bad influences that came as a result of the fall. He wants to set us free from demonic influence, release us from guilt and shame, restore us to right biblical thinking and life values, heal us, cleanse us and make us holy. As Christians we can make a will choice to be led by our spirit, because then our soul and body will follow, although they most definitely will always resist! God feeds our spirit, he is the fountain of life. And as we walk in the spirit, the desire to do right and please God will become stronger in us.

Whereas if our soul rules then we have disconnected from our life source and our battery runs dry.

God is a superb spiritual surgeon, the only spiritual surgeon in fact. He can bring amazing healing in our lives with one touch of his spirit, with one word or one verse from the Bible. In an instant he can bring light into areas of our lives that up until now have been covered by darkness.



Whether it's our spirit, our soul, our body, or a combination of all three, Jesus can heal us everywhere we hurt. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Let's pray.

God, we pray that people reading this who are in pain, physically, emotionally or spiritually, will experience real healing in their lives right now. By your Holy Spirit, please will you bring freedom to those broken areas of our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

by his
WOUNDS
We are
HEALED



Isaiah 53:5

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore. Amen.