



Continuing Conflict, Continuing Grace Pt 6: The God Who makes us Perfectly Whole
February 14, 2021

Holy Text: Matthew 14:34-36

- Good morning CRC! I pray the last few weeks have helped you:
 1. Be willing to pay the Prophetic Price
 2. Understand the immense Compassion of Jesus
 3. Row in Contrary Winds
 4. Remember this Phrase: "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid!"
 5. Deal with your doubt!

Some Initial thoughts on Today's Text:

1. Here we are in 2021, with the need for health and healing ever present in our minds day to day.
2. One of the things we have learned in 2020 was the importance of our physical health. We also learned about God's sovereignty over all of creation, including our bodies.
3. The truth is that at some point, all people will deal with some kind of physical infirmity and/or the return of these bodies to the dust. These bodies, though important to God, are made from the dirt and degraded by sin. But they will not stay that way! Scripture says several things about our bodies:

God created man from the dust:

Genesis 2:7 (KJV) *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Because of sin, God limited the lifespan of man:

Genesis 6:3 (KJV) *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

Christians' bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 6:18-19 (KJV) *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

That our bodies are degraded by sin:

Romans 8:21-23 (KJV) *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

That our bodies will be made new!

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (KJV) *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be*

raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **56** The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

4. As our LORD and His disciples entered the land of Gennesaret after crossing over the Sea of Galilee, several points are evident:

- The “boat test” was over for the disciples. Aren’t you glad the LORD’s tests aren’t forever?
- The people had heard of Him. And unlike, say, the people of the Gergesenes (Gadarenes) on the opposite side of the Sea of Galilee, they welcomed Him!

(Note: you might recall Matthew 8:28-34 where Jesus encounters two men possessed with devils and heals them, casting their demons into the unlawful swine they raised. The whole town, instead of being grateful for the healing and the not-so-subtle correction, begged Jesus to leave!)

- Not only did they welcome Him, they spread the word that He was there and brought their sick to Him!
- Because of His love and compassion, Jesus extended grace and healed their sicknesses.
- The people of Gennesaret demonstrated humility and faith, not needing elaborate ministry; they simply wanted to touch the “hem of His garment.” The PHC says:

So far as the patients and their friends were concerned, nothing more was required, in the first instance, than that they should be brought somehow *into the presence of Jesus*. Only let Him know, of them—only let Him notice them—nothing more was required. No external inducement. No evidence of worthiness. No appeal to vainglory. No offer of fee. All that was sought for was to move His compassion. All that was needed was to elicit His power. Nor was anything more required, in the second instance, than to be *brought into contact* with that. Any action of faith that sufficed to do that, sufficed to do all. Not merely the blessed person of the Saviour Himself—not merely any part of any of the garments by which that person was clothed—but even that “hem of His garment” which, as it were, was little more than an appendage thereto, if touched only in that spirit, sufficed to do all. So far as the sick themselves were concerned, all who “touched” the “border of His garment” did all that was needed. That touch of faith comprised the very outside of all that was asked at their hands.

- Once again we see our LORD as Jehovah Rapha: The LORD who Heals! (Ex 15:26). He is the healer of our bodies, and more importantly, our souls! Again from the PHC:

Our Lord’s miracles of healing had a twofold import; they were credentials of His Divine authority and also representations of the higher work He had come to do for the world.

Physical disease is a type of moral disorder, and as Jesus dealt effectually with the one, so can He with the other.

5. Let us turn our attention to this phrase: "...were made perfectly whole."
 - The Greek here is *diasōzō*. It means "to *save thoroughly*, that is, (by implication or analogy) to *cure, preserve, rescue*, etc.: - bring safe, escape (safe), heal, make perfectly whole, save." (Strong's)
 - **Friends, this is our LORD's business: to make His people perfectly whole! Praise His Name!**
 - Yes, this passage speaks of physical healing; but the language hints of something even greater: **Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
 - Christ saves "to the uttermost" or completely! (Heb 7:25)
 - He begins this work in this life and will one day bring full wholeness to completion:

Philippians 1:6 (KJV) *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (bring to completion, ESV) it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

1 John 3:1-2 (KJV) *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Philippians 3:20-21 (KJV) *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

6. So to sum up a few lessons we might hopefully remember:
 1. Let us take care of our bodies; they are important to God and temples of His Spirit.
 2. Let us welcome Jesus into every area of our lives and seek Him for healing.
 3. Let us strive to bring others to Jesus; He is the Healer!
 4. Let us remain humble; the hem of His garment is enough!
 5. Let us be encouraged; despite the trials of this life, perfect wholeness is coming!

As we close, one more thought. The word Gennesaret means "garden of the Prince" or "garden of Riches." The land they entered was known to be rich, fertile, and beautiful. John Gill writes:

And thus the saints, after a long and troublesome passage over the sea of this world, arrive, at last, safe at their desired haven, and enter upon a most delightful country, a paradise, a garden of pleasure; where all delicious fruits and desirable things are enjoyed, even pleasures for evermore; where they shall be led to fountains of living waters, into fulness of joy; where all troubles will cease, and tears will be wiped away; and when they will have leisure and capacity to reflect upon all they have met with in their dangerous, and difficult voyage; and will admire the wonderful grace of God, which has been with them; and his divine power, which has appeared for them, and supported them, and brought them safe to eternal glory; and they ascribe greatness to Christ,

as the Son of God, and for ever worship him as the eternal Jehovah, who has done such great things for them, as none but God can do.

This is our hope as well saints! After the trials and troubles of this life, a garden awaits wherein there is perfect healing. Paradise lost will become Paradise restored!

Revelation 21:1-8 (KJV) *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Prayer:

Sovereign LORD,

We trust You. You are our Healer. Eventually, we know that You will make us perfectly whole... not just physically, but in every area.

We ask You to heal us today, and those we love, in Jesus' mighty Name, Amen.

*If time, some encouragement from our teaching: *A Biblical Perspective on Healing**¹

¹ <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2016/4/a-biblical-perspective-on-healing>