

Week 2
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

WHO CAN HEAL US

INTRODUCTION

Three things about healing:

- 1) There is a relationship between the healing we need and the willingness to step boldly into the presence of God as recipients of that healing
- 2) There is a relationship between the healing we long for and the community we belong to.
- 3) There is a relationship between the healing that we long for and our honesty before God.

DISCUSSION

How have others in your life ever helped you to heal?

EXPLANATION

Why do you think healing is such an important part of the scriptures?

What is the most broken you have ever felt in your life?

What brought it all on?

How did you heal (or are you still healing)?

Do you ever find it hard to be honest before God?

If so, when and how?

APPLICATION

Define the word “repentance.”

How do you repent in your life?

What happens to your attitudes when you don't repent?

In what ways can repentance be used as a tool of healing?

LAMENTATIONS

WHO CAN HEAL US

James 5:16

Lamentations 2:1-13, 18

Matthew 8:1-7

Matthew 17:14

Mark 1:9-11, 14-15,
21-29, 32, 38, 40-42

Luke 8:43-33

John 12:40-41

Romans 3:10

Luke 3:21-22

Colossians 3:1-4

Hebrews 4:14-16

Luke 9:1-2

James 5:16

Mark 1:32

Matthew 9:2

Mark 1:14-15, 38-39

Matthew 4:17

Galatians 5:19-21

1 John 1:8-9

James 5:16

Week 2 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



WHO CAN HEAL US

James 5:16 *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”*

Lamentations deals with the problem of national suffering. There is no effort to minimize Israel's sin (the writer is clearly overwhelmed by the greatness of Jerusalem's doom). There is a clear recognition that the disaster was caused by God, not his enemies. In 2:7 the mockery of Judah's enemies was caused by God.

The main question in chapter 2 becomes:

- (Σίων ὅτι ἐμεγαλύνθη) How great
- (ποτήριον συντριβῆς σου) is the cup of your suffering
- (τίς ἰάσεται σε) Who can heal us (you)?

Who can heal you? The answer in the gospels is Jesus. He is presented as the great healer. Jesus is in the gospels IS the answer to Lamentations. But, there is also a relationship between the healing we need and the willingness to step boldly into the presence of God as recipients of that healing.

God doesn't heal you because of your FAITH, He heals you because He loves you as His child.

Three things about healing:

- 1) There is a relationship between the healing we need and the willingness to step boldly into the presence of God as recipients of that healing
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- 3) There is a relationship between the healing that we long for and our honesty before God.

Martin Luther's 95 grievances on the door on the Wittenberg church, which is what most people site as the beginning of the reformation in the 15th century. Number one was: *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.*

We are called to Repent and be healed.

The laments in the book are shot through with prayer; and prayer leads to hope in a situation in which hope appears meaningless. Lamentation's remind us that there are depths in God's actions that finite man cannot grasp. God's revelation in word and act consistently shows his justice and covenant love; yet there is always a residue of human experience that demands our bowing to a wisdom too high for our understanding.

This finds its culmination in the Cross, and in the cry of Jesus in Mark 15:34 *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* This is why every superficial theory of the Atonement fails, because there are depths to Christ's death that pass human understanding. Only when we realize everything is in God's hands will we also grasp how God's sovereign will is compatible with his justice and covenant love to His people.