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Healing One and Healing Many; Matt 8:14-17  
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Introduction – You’re probably familiar with the expression, “to kill two birds with one stone.” That means a single action taken will accomplish two desired outcomes. In doing one thing, you are doing two things.

The same idea applies to the works of God. God is never doing just one thing. When God does something, He is doing hundreds of things. He kills thousands of birds with one stone. Since that is the way God acts, it certainly applies to the healing, miracle-working ministry of Jesus. He’s never just doing one thing, but each time He heals or works a miracle, He is accomplishing a multitude of things. That is certainly the case in our text this morning. As we look closely at the details Matthew provides, we see that as Jesus is healing, He is doing much more.

- I. Lessons from the Healing of One (vv14-15)
  - a. Peter had a home in Capernaum and his mother-in-law was living with them.
  - b. First Lesson. Jesus moves with compassion because He is filled with compassion.
    - i. This story is also told in Mark 1 and Luke 4. In those two narratives we discover that Peter and probably his wife appeal to Jesus to heal the mother-in-law.
    - ii. Matthew, however, just makes note that Jesus saw her. It’s almost as if Matthew is making the point that Jesus would have healed her even without the request of her loved ones because He saw her. He saw her in her weakened state of misery.
    - iii. All she could do was lie there. The fever was of such intensity that she was completely drained of energy. Possibly not even enough energy to appeal to Jesus herself.
    - iv. He saw her, and He healed her.
    - v. O beloved let us take much heart in our Savior today because He takes much heart in us and our infirmities! He is filled with compassion for our weaknesses and He moves with compassion on our behalf.

- vi. We are often weakened not only by sickness, we are often weakened by the stresses of life, we are often weakened in the faith, we are often at the point of not even knowing how to pray, not even having the capacity to appeal.
  - vii. Take heart, dear believer, He sees, and He has compassion, and He moves on our behalf!
- c. Second Lesson. The power and authority of Jesus to heal resides solely within His will to do so.
- i. I understand this to be the case given the variety of ways we have seen Jesus heal just in this one chapter. He healed the leper by touching him and speaking to him. He healed the centurion's servant by simply speaking. Here, He heals Peter's mother-in-law by touching her hand. 3 different healings, 3 different ways.
  - ii. My friends, the power and authority of Jesus to heal does not reside in some magical or mythical formula. He is not restricted to following a two-step or three-step process of some incantation. He's not required to appeal to a power other than Himself or appease another entity to do His bidding.
  - iii. His power and authority reside solely within His own will. If He wills it to be, it shall be. Nothing can stay His will. Nothing can halt His power. Nothing can veto His authority. He is absolute sovereign.
  - iv. Let us be reminded afresh today that we need not go anywhere but to the Lord. If we need answers, they are found in Him. If we need direction, it is found in Him. If we need peace, it is found in Him. If we need faith, it is found in Him. If we need salvation, it is found in Him.
  - v. And yes, if we need healing, it is His sovereign will that will renew our physical bodies. He may do so through medicinal treatment and He may do so through divine directive, but we can rest assured if it is His will for us to be healed, He alone has the power and authority to do so. Nothing can stop His will to heal. No matter how severe the sickness and no matter how dire the diagnosis. When it is out of the doctor's hands, it is never out of the Savior's hands!

- d. Third Lesson. The power and authority of Jesus is displayed in the immediate, instantaneous healing.
  - i. We see this time and time again when Jesus heals. V3. V13. V15.
  - ii. God has granted the medical community of our day much wisdom and much technology to help alleviate the suffering of people. But on his best day, with his best resources available, our physicians can only say, “Here, take this twice a day and you should be back to normal in a week or so.” Or, “After the surgery, you’ll spend 6 weeks or 6 months recovering and then you’ll be well.”
  - iii. My friends, the power and authority of Jesus is on display when He simply touches a hand and not only is the fever immediately gone, but the effects of the fever are gone too. Full strength and full vigor have returned in an instant. It’s as if she never had a fever at all!!
  - iv. How is that possible? God touched her hand, and fever is no match for God!
  - v. Whatever may be your malady this day, it may be an addiction, it may be a dark cloud of worry, it may be a deadened, unbelieving heart – just one touch from the hand of God and the fever of sin not only breaks, it vanishes!

## II. Lessons from the Healing of Many (vv16-17)

- a. Jesus’ power and authority are displayed even over the realm of evil.
  - i. It’s one thing to be in the life-draining clutches of fever, it’s quite another to be in the life-killing clutches of satanic power. Imagine being wrecked and racked from an inescapable cloak of evil. To not be yourself and know you’re under the control of another. To feel the weight and cloud of darkness upon your soul and feel the chains and know the despair that you can’t free yourself, you can’t break these chains!
  - ii. But there is one who can. And what is entirely impossible for us on our own is possible for Him with only a word!
  - iii. Imagine the demonic glee of enslaving one of God’s image-bearers and delighting in his power to control and infuriate and manipulate thoughts and words and actions. And then

that old dark gloomy slithering spirit encounters Jesus, and all of his control and power and misery inflicted is over in a single word. Light breaks the darkness!

- iv. My friends, the truth is that before Christ we were all under the sway of the realm of evil. We were all being manipulated and deceived and controlled by evil and dead hearts, and then we encountered Jesus and He said, "LIVE!" And the power of the enemy was broken, and we were set free from the slavery of sin, and new life was found in Christ, because of Christ, and by Christ!
- b. The power and authority of Jesus is displayed in that He healed all manner of sickness. He was not limited to a few ailments that He had the ability to cure. Any and every sickness bows down to His sovereign will!
  - i. He healed the leper – the most dreaded disease of His day. He healed paralysis – the most dreaded illness of His day. He healed fever – the most debilitating sickness of His day. He healed the possessed – the most frightening state of His day. And He healed every other kind and form of sickness of His day.
  - ii. The miracles and healings of Jesus were meant to display His sovereign, absolute power and authority over everything that sin has corrupted in the physical realm. But there's more.
- c. V17. Cf Isaiah 53:4-6.
  - i. Matthew is saying by quoting Isaiah 53 that the One who took our illnesses and diseases is the One who will take our sins!
  - ii. We've got a bigger problem than leprosy and paralysis and fever and even demonic oppression. We've got sin. Sickness and illness and demonic oppression will ruin and even take your life, but sin will take your soul! But praise be to God, His Son came to free us from our greatest detriment, our most severe affliction, our most dreaded disease – He came to set us free from our sin.
  - iii. He died, so that in Him, we might live. That's the point and purpose of Jesus' healing ministry. You see, He wasn't just doing one thing, He wasn't just healing one, He wasn't just healing many; He was saving a multitude!