

The Healing of the Saviour

Scripture Readings: Luke 22.39-46, Matthew 26.36-46,
Mark 14.32-42 and Hebrews 5.7-9.

We do not think of Jesus in need of physical healing because He was perfect man. He was perfect in that He was born, not of Adam but into Adam's race as a man through the work of the Holy Spirit and the submission of the Virgin Mary to God's almighty purpose. Being human He was limited. A body pushed beyond its limits and out of balance is no longer able to cope with added stress and breaks down at its weakest point. This is what we observe happening to Jesus. With us it may be disease, malnutrition, genetic defect, violence, drug abuse, sorrow or any of the maladies that affect modern man. With Jesus it was the pressure and tension of dealing with His redemptive mission. One thing that this happening demonstrates is the true humanity of Jesus. Another is the perfect model that it provides for those He calls His blood bought brethren for dealing with the moments of the in need in their lives. Read this study thoughtfully with your Bible open to the passages given.

The prayer that Jesus offered. v41

First we note that Jesus was careful to pray according to God's will Luke 22.42; *If Thou be willing*. The word for will suggests the deliberate exercise of the will' whereas the second use of the word in v42 is a softer word often translated in the RV as 'desire'. There is ever the wisdom of our will being absorbed into the perfect will of God. 1 John 5.14&15.

Second, He called God His *Father*, In Mark 14.36 it is *Abba, Father*; 'abba' being Aramaic for 'daddy', the labial sounds made by a quite small child, an intimate cry. *Father* is a more formal address. Then *all things are possible unto thee*; Jesus as the Son of man recognised His Source of power and authority. Compare this with Matthew 26.53. Jesus today

understands our need to call on God in a day of stress and difficulty. He can sympathise with us. Hebrews 2.18.

Third, His request was remove this cup from me. 'remove' is a word which means 'to carry past' or 'cause to be swept away', and 'from' is a preposition meaning away from. He wanted the cup of suffering carried away from Him. Here is a deep and intimate glimpse of the full humanity of Jesus.

The word prayer, Luke 22.41 is in the imperfect tense which tells us that he continued in prayer. Jesus was praying the issue through and He continued until the matter was settled. It is not wrong to hold a matter before God until that prayer is heard and answered like the blind man beside the road. See Luke 18.38&39.

The suffering that Jesus endured.

The question is, what was the cup of suffering for Jesus? There are four possibilities. Maybe it is all four.

First, He, the sinless one was being made to carry sins of the world. 2 Corinthians 5.21. Second, the One who lived eternally in full and unbroken fellowship with His Father was facing six terrible hours when He must turn His face from Him. Psalm 22.1 & Matthew 27.46. Third there was the terrible physical sufferings He was to endure as told in all the Gospels. Last there is the extreme physical and emotional stress that drained His strength. Mark 14.32-34. *My soul is overwhelmed to the point of death*. He was in risk of dying before He could complete His mission, may be even right there in the garden.

A symptom of the pathological condition which Jesus was suffering has given it its name *hematidrosis*¹, meaning 'blood-sweat' Dr. Luke describes it in v44. It occurs under great stress and leaves the whole body tense and every nerve supersensitive to pain. The body is so damaged that death is imminent.

In conclusion be encouraged with this promise from God's word for His restored people. Take it to heart. *Trust in Him. Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.* Isaiah 41.10

¹ Saunders Dictionary & Encyclopaedia of Laboratory Medicine and Technology. EM Blakelock MA LittD The Costliness of Our Salvation in Keswick Week 1959. ² WE Vine Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

It was in this state that He undertook the terrible ordeal of His passion.

The answer that Jesus received.

The words 'the one who could save Him from death' (NIV) Hebrews 5.7 distinguishes this as a comment on the experience of Jesus at this time, and it accords with Mark 14.34. It tells of the anguish and urgency of Jesus.

'He was heard', says Hebrews, because of His 'fear'. This word means, says Vine², 'firstly caution; then reverence, godly fear.' It was not a 'reverent suggestion' as the NIV suggests, but a personal attitude of respect and reverence for God the Father, and out of careful willingness He breathed His prayer.

The ministering angel Luke 22.43 was God's response bringing strength to Jesus to face the ordeal which had already enveloped Him v44. The angels of God ever surround His servants in times of need even though they may not see them. See Hebrews 1.14, 2 Kings 6.16&17 and Acts 12.5-11.

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