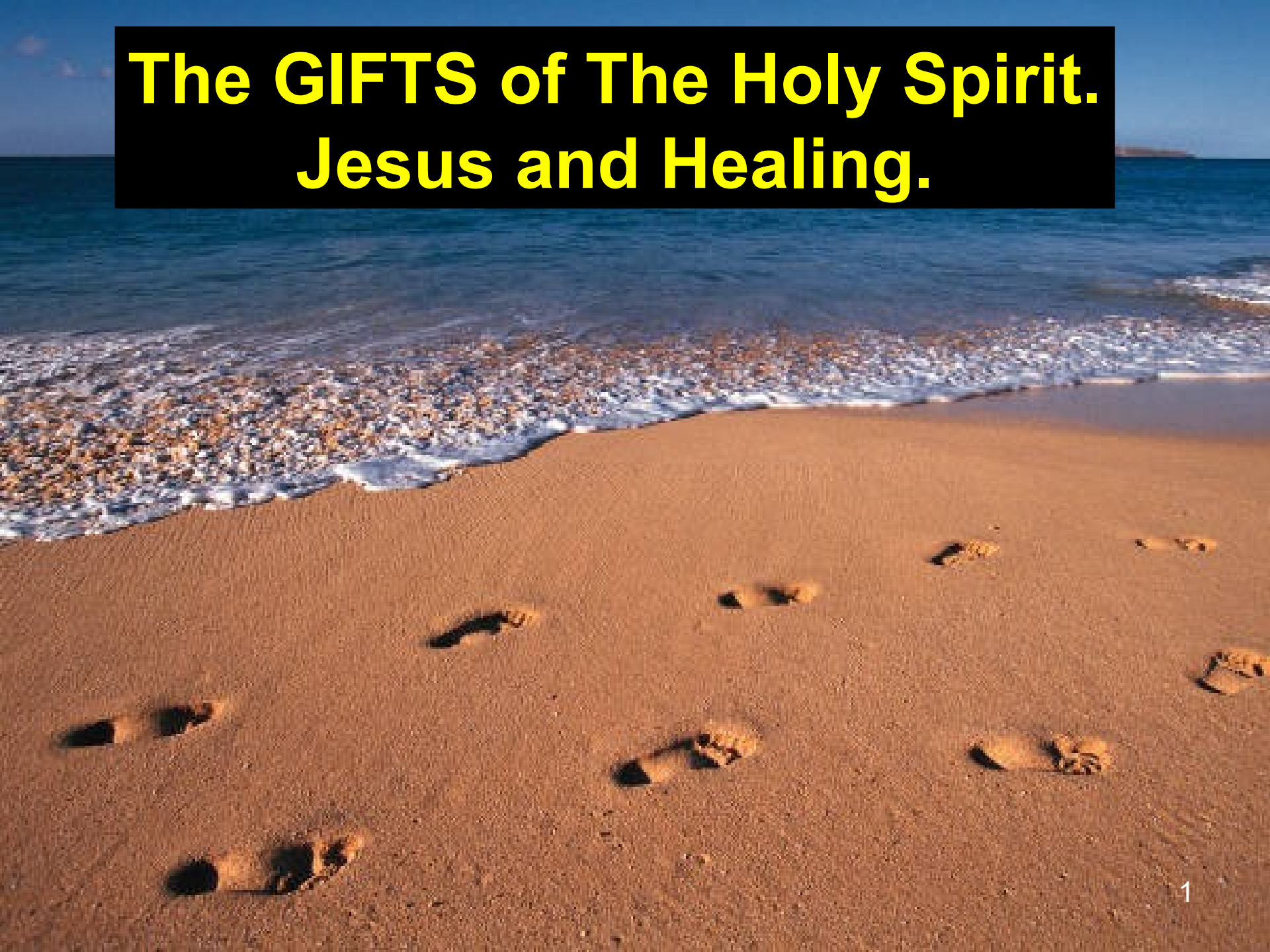


# **The GIFTS of The Holy Spirit. Jesus and Healing.**



# Jesus and Healing

We all remember the story in Acts 3 of **Peter and John** going up to Temple via the Beautiful Gate & **healing the lame man**.

We know the story well. The man was over 40 and had been lame from birth. For years now he had been carried to the Beautiful Gate, which was probably at the eastern end of the Temple, so he could beg for alms.

Obviously it was a well-used thoroughfare and he was a well-known figure there. You could say that it was his pitch, and no doubt good pitches were jealously guarded. So what was 'odd' about the story?

# Jesus and Healing

Do you see anything 'odd' about the story?

You see, we have **the Gospels** and they **tell the story of Jesus**, and they form a **nice compartment** in our minds

Then comes **Acts** which takes the story on and this forms **another compartment** in our minds, and often we **never think to overlap** the compartments and their stories.

**In real time the events at the Beautiful Gate occurred very shortly after the Day of Pentecost, which itself wasn't two months after the crucifixion and resurrection.**

# Jesus and Healing

In other words **this lame man's life** and **Jesus's life overlapped**, and had overlapped for over 30 years.

We don't know how long he had had the Beautiful Gate begging pitch but there is no doubt he must have been there throughout Jesus's ministry, Jesus must have seen him at times sitting there begging as Jesus went in and out of the Temple.

**Why hadn't Jesus already healed him?** Why did he have to **wait until Peter and John** came by, in the immediate **post-resurrection** period, before he was healed?

Such a thought prompted ought to **make us think hard** again **about Jesus and His ministry**, **what He did and why**, for something seems a little odd here.

# Jesus and Healing

Jesus never seemed to go out of His way to heal anybody; they came or were brought to Him. He never got up and said to His disciples, 'Come on lads, we're going down to the leper colony today and I'm going to heal the lot of them.'

He could have done this but He never did. He had compassion on them but His compassion never led Him to seek them out so He could heal them.

He is never called 'The Healer' but always 'Rabbi', or 'Teacher', or 'Master', or 'Lord'.

Jesus only ever seemed to use His healing powers as a catchpenny to draw in crowds so they would listen to His words; healing was never an end in itself for Him. so why was it like this? There has to be a reason for it.

# Jesus and Healing

It's not difficult to skim through the four Gospels and **pick out the healing miracle passages** because most Bibles have neat little headings to guide you.

Jesus was always approached by the person wanting healing, or by his friends or family, in Matthew's Gospel we could get the impression that Jesus was almost happy to **ignore one woman and walk past two blind men.**

In Matt 15:21;ff we read: 'And Jesus went away from there and with-drew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

“And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

# Jesus and Healing

**“But He did not answer her a word.** And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.”

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.”

Jesus answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.”  
And her daughter was healed instantly.’

# Jesus and Healing

He ignored her at first and said He hadn't come to Gentiles but only to Jews. Of course **He responded positively to her persistence and great faith** and did what she asked of Him  
Yet He seemed **unwilling to arbitrarily work a miracle.**

in Chapter 20:29 we read: “And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, there were **two blind men** sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, **“Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”**”

“The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” And **stopping, Jesus called them** and said, **“What do you want me to do for you?”**”

# Jesus and Healing

They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.”

And **Jesus in pity touched their eyes**, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.’

Over in early Mark we get the full flavour of the situation.

Look at Mark 1:29-39. “And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.”

“And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.”

“That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

# Jesus and Healing

“And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.”

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him,  
“Everyone is looking for you.”

“And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may PREACH there also, for THAT is why I came out.”  
And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.”

# Jesus and Healing

Note the **people were looking for Him** but He moved on because **His mission was to preach not to heal.**  
**His healing was a side-line.**

**It attracted attention, drew crowds to Him**  
**and then He could teach them what He wanted them to hear.**  
**The pattern is well established**

**So why had Jesus not healed the crippled man**  
**at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple?**  
**Perhaps the answer is the crippled man never asked Him to.**

**That seems to be the underlying principle**  
**behind all of Jesus' healing miracles:**  
**either they, or their representatives,**  
**actually came to Jesus in person and simple asked,**  
**or begged, or pleaded with Him to do so.**

**The centurion pleads for his servant  
and Jesus marvels at his faith.**



# Jesus and Healing

**Involved in the miracle was a massive element of faith** being expressed by the patient, in being brought by their friends or relatives, or in their coming to Jesus in person.

Some times He was passing and they seized their opportunity as He did so to call out to Him. On those occasions He usually got some sort of a faith response from them before He performed the miracle.

The healing had to be a two-way process: the faith of the person concerned being united with the healing power from Jesus.

Of course when someone was too ill to come themselves, or on a few occasions dead, they could not plead for themselves and demonstrate their faith in His power, but their representatives received the blessing because of the faith they expressed in the Master.

# Jesus and Healing

Jesus did not need people to have faith in order to be healed by Him. He could have healed them anyway but that was not the point.

On one occasion Jesus seemed to ignore the pleas of the needy ones until they actually followed Him into the house where He was going.

In Matthew 9:27; we read: “And as Jesus passed on from there, **two blind men followed him**, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”

“When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”

# Jesus and Healing

Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” And their eyes were opened.

“See that no one knows about it.” But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.’

It is also possible that Jesus ignored the man at the Beautiful Gate because it was not the right time for him to be healed.

As we saw with Peter and John and the crippled man  
He was asking for alms and did not expect to be healed  
and certainly did not express any faith in Jesus.

We can say quite comfortably that the man was  
only interested in receiving alms  
and never did call out to Jesus for healing,

# Jesus and Healing

Possibly never thought he could be cured, or possibly he was too afraid in himself to be cured because it would catapult him into a world he had never known and he felt comfortable doing what he understood.

**Many people still ignore calling out to Jesus because they prefer their crippled state! - We are speaking spiritually here – to the implications of what healing would mean to them.**

**Jesus was on a timed mission**

**Throughout His ministry Jesus was well aware of the timing of events, especially major events. You recall possibly one healing where there was no prior expression of faith or no calling out to Jesus for a cure by the man concerned.**

# Jesus and Healing

It was the man, blind from birth, whom He healed on a Sabbath, as we read in John 9. Before He was healed, however, he had to demonstrate his faith in Jesus by going and washing in the pool of Siloam with mud, made by Jesus, on his eyes, so faith was definitely demanded from him.

Nevertheless it was the disciples who had a query about the causes of the blindness in the man which prompted the healing action of Jesus.

They wanted to know who had sinned to make him blind. Jesus told them,  
“It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

# Jesus and Healing

(John 9:3) Jesus used him to make a point about His being the light of the world and to lay down a challenge to the authorities on several fronts.

It was very much a key healing in the narrative of the Lord's life  
**'that the works of God might be displayed in him',**

**The man was not blinded by God at birth  
so that Jesus could do this miracle,**  
But as the man was blind Jesus took the opportunity  
to demonstrate the power of God.

# **The GIFTS of The Holy Spirit. Jesus and Healing.**

**Prepared by  
Graeme Morrison**

**[graemestudy@gmail.com](mailto:graemestudy@gmail.com)**

**[www.graemebibleresources.com](http://www.graemebibleresources.com)**

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