

Jesus said to the man at the pool of Bethesda, “Do you want to be well?” He asks us the same question. God wants us to see God’s people grow in the power of the Spirit, equipped for everything needful for a life of godly service.

The CMA has always stood for four truths: Jesus is our Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and our Coming King. These nouns describe what Jesus did for us. As verbs they describe what Jesus is doing, saving, sanctifying, healing and returning for his own... God has called SGAC to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and to become a Christ-like community. With Jesus as our Healer, the call upon us is to become a healing community.

JOHN IN A NUTSHELL:

In John there are reoccurring themes:

- 1) the superiority of our Lord Jesus to everything that came before him,
- 2) the gradual revelation of Jesus as the Son of God.
- 3) the ultimate healing is to discover we are in a relationship with the Lord.
- 4) to believe and tell others that they may believe as well.

They occur in these accounts (4:46-5:15), 2 very different approaches to divine healing: In the first, a well to do official begs for the life of his son. In the second, there is one who has been ill for most of life sought by the Lord for healing. In the first case a man seeks Jesus because he knows exactly who he is. In the second Jesus seeks out one who doesn’t know Him! In both cases 1) healing flows from Jesus and 2) the ultimate healing is to believe in him.

ROYALTY MEETS REALITY:

When was the last time you saw royalty beg? The man was desperate, doing all he could to help his son. He was a royal official who worked with kings in a day when a king’s word meant life or death. He comes to a peasant preacher and begs!

Beggars beg because their resources are gone. Royalty stands for the highest. It is symbolic of the highest aspirations of a people. Dignitaries entertain dignitaries, showing the best of their nation, covering over their deficiencies, because deficiencies make for poor politics.

Jesus says, “Unless you people see signs and wonders you won’t believe.” In other words, “How do I know you are sincere?” Sincere means “Without wax!”

Ancient royalty covered up—a lot. So do modern ones. The rule about ruling is to make sure you look better than you are. Cover it with wax; make it pretty. But that is not what Jesus was seeking... Drop your mask!

Jesus stretched this man with a challenge, but it was to get past the glossy exterior. Jesus saw the man as he really was, no masks, no hidden agendas, just a man in grief for his son; then the healing came.

PRINCIPLES FOR HEALING PRAYER:

- The miracle doesn’t happen until the sincerity shines through. There was no power on his first asking. So he asks again. Jesus sifts the sincerity of his heart and he will test ours too.
- There was no assurance the prayer was answered at first. Prayer must be consistent, ever deepening our walk with God. The man humbles himself until he gets a word from Jesus. Then he leaves the fulfillment to God.
- As he moves in the light he has, his answer rises to meet him. Walk in the light you have. God will gradually reveal more as you go.