

St Martins C3 – August 30, 2026

Empowered - Healing

Sermon Notes:

The aim of this sermon is to encourage us to feel more willing and able to pray for healing.

Read James 5:13-18

The encouragement of scripture is that we can and should pray for healing. God uses our prayers to bring change to people in our lives.

Scripture teaches you can pray and you can see mighty things happen. Yet, many have an internal hesitation to pray for others to be healed. Here are three reasons why:

1 – God Doesn't Always Heal

If prayer doesn't always work, how can I pray with faith?

2 – God Shouldn't Use Us

Who am I that my petitions could change anything?

3 – We Don't Know God's Will

If we aren't clear on what God wants to do how can we pray with confidence?

Here is the response to each of these hesitations:

1 – God Does Heal

It's true, God doesn't always heal. There are even occasions

when Jesus prayed and He didn't get what He asked for. A miracle is an exception from the regular way the world operates. There are times that we don't get the answer we seek. But God does answer prayer and those answers are worth persevering to receive.

2 – God Chooses to Use Us

From the very beginning His purpose has been to partner with humanity. When we pray for God to make a change in someone's life we are embracing our identity as His children.

Read 1 Peter 2:9

3 – We Know Enough of God's Will

There are times God doesn't answer a prayer for healing, it is not His will to heal. But we know God is good and He longs to bring the Kingdom of God to us, now.

Read Hebrews 11:6

We have set up two options for prayer, "God can" vs "God will". Here is a third option: "God might" heal. The might prayer says: "God you are able and you are good, so please do something here." It is honest and a faith filled prayer.

Read Luke 18:1-8

The mindset we have to have in prayer is to believe, persevere all while listening to hear how we can pray in line with God's will.

It's time for us to move into a place of expectant prayer.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

We should be willing and to pray for healing and see God's goodness make a difference in others' lives.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

What has been your experience when praying for healing?

Share stories of answered and unanswered prayer. What have you learned from these experiences?

How confident are you when you pray for healing? What makes you hesitant to pray for others?

How have you resolved the difficulty of unanswered prayer?

Why does God choose to use people to pray for healing rather than just do it Himself?

"It is not God's will to heal everyone." How is this statement different than some Christian teaching? Is it accurate?

What does it look like to be expectant in prayer?

How can you raise your faith to the level of the persistent widow?

What prayer needs are there in the group we can pray for?

Monday Devotion: The Power of Faith

Jesus curses the fig tree and uses it as a lesson to show the disciples the authority they have as children of God. When we pray we are calling on the Most High God and He has great power. This gives us confidence that God is able to move through our prayers.

Scripture

Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion: If You are Willing

This is a great example of faith that does not presume upon the will of God. The man with leprosy knew that Jesus could heal but left it in His hands to say whether He would heal. It is a great posture for us to come with requests but leave the results up to God.

Scripture

Matthew 8:1-3

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion: Unanswered Prayer

The apostle Paul was one of the greatest miracle workers we read about in the New Testament. He experienced healing and deliverance in his ministry. However, he had a torment that God chose not to heal. Instead, it was God's will for Him to find strength in God when he didn't receive healing.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion: From Weeping to Victory

This story shows the tension of unanswered prayer and miraculous intervention. Jesus didn't prevent Lazarus' death but stepped into it weeping. Ultimately, he brought healing. God loves us, sometimes he allows suffering, and we can bring our pain to Him honestly and allow Him to do what He will do.

Scripture

John 11:1-44

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion: God Knows, Ask Anyway

Jesus prefaces the Lord's prayer by saying that God already knows the things we need before we ask Him. Then he tells His followers to ask about them anyway. Why? Dependence. God wants us to rely on Him in every moment and partner with Him. This is the attitude that sees great things happen.

Scripture

Matthew 6:7-14

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
