

Priesthood Study Series

Study #13 - Administration of the Sick

Healing the Sick - Christ's Example

- ♦ **Matthew 8:2-4** And, behold, there came a leper worshipping him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.
And **Jesus put forth his hand and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean.** And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
And Jesus said unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way and show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.
- ♦ **Matthew 14:30** And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; and besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment; **and as many as touched, were made perfectly whole.**
- ♦ **Matthew 9:34-35** And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith, be it unto you.**

Importance of Faith

- ♦ **Matthew 9:26-28** And, behold, a woman which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment.
For she said within herself, **If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.**
But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Healing and Faith

- ♦ **Matthew 8:5-13** And when Jesus was entered unto Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.
And Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him.
The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.
And when they that followed him, heard this, they marveled. And when Jesus heard this, he said unto them that followed,
Verily I say unto you, **I have not found so great faith; no, not in Israel. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way, and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the self-same hour.**

Why the Laying ON of Hands?

1. Anointing of oil and laying on of hands give special emphasis to the event
2. Faith of one seeking help is amplified by faith of the elders
3. God has granted the Elders the ability to invoke a special measure of God's healing power (They are acting in the stead of Christ)

Source: *Ordinances and Sacraments*—Yale and Brockway, 1962. Pg. 74

Conditions for Administration

- ◆ For Physical, Mental and Spiritual Illness
- ◆ How serious does it need to be?
 - If you are calling a Doctor, you might want to call for the elders.

Source: *Ordinances and Sacraments*– Yale and Brockway, 1962. Pg. 75-76

Three Things Associated with the Ordinance

1. Must be at least one elder, preferably two
2. Consecrated (Set Apart) Oil –symbolic of outpouring of God’s Spirit
3. Need a willing participant requesting the ordinance

Source: *Ordinances and Sacraments* – Yale and Brockway, 1962. Pg. 76-77

- ◆ **James 5:14** Is any sick among you? **let him call for the elders of the church;** and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

Call for the Elders

- ◆ **Doctrine and Covenants 42:12c-d** And whosoever among you are sick, and **have not faith to be healed, but believe**, shall be nourished with all tenderness with herbs and mild food, and that not by the hand of an enemy.
And the elders of the church, two or more, shall be called, and shall pray for, and lay their hands upon them in my name; and if they die, they shall die unto me, and if they live, they shall live unto me.

Willing Participant

- ◆ Expression of Surrender
- ◆ Expression of Faith – allows for additional expression

Seek Healing for the Right Purpose

- ◆ **Doctrine and Covenants 46:4a-b** ...seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily I say unto you, They are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do, that all may be benefited, that seeketh or that asketh of me, that asketh and not for a sign that he may consume it upon his lusts.

Forgiveness of Sins

- ◆ **James 5:15** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and **if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.**

Importance of Preparation

- ◆ **Matthew 17:15-21** And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a man kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son; for he is lunatic, and sore vexed; for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation! how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil, and he departed out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.
Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief;** for, verily, I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

The Setting

- ◆ Who may be present?
- ◆ Special Rooms
 - Find quiet place where you won't be disturbed
 - Lock door, post a deacon or family member at door

Worship setting

Hospital,

Home

The Consecrated Oil

- ◆ Oil is consecrated through prayer prior to use
- ◆ Oil isn't transformed – it's set apart
- ◆ Oil is designated for use by the elders
- ◆ Oil is to be placed on the head – Not body parts
- ◆ Outpouring should be left to "Spiritual"

The Prayer

- ◆ Common practice is two prayers
 - First addresses the anointing
 - May take different forms
 - Acknowledge the place of "faith" in the ordinance
 - Acknowledge God's sovereignty
 - Second is a confirmation prayer
 - Should be addressed to God
 - Should address the illness and request healing or relief
 - Don't dictate the blessing to the Lord
 - Don't elaborate on the illness
 - Don't bargain with the Lord

Avoid Prophesying Over the Sick

- ◆ ***Doctrine and Covenants 125:15a-c* Prophesying over them that are sick in administering to them has been a fruitful source of trouble among my people.**

They must observe that this they are not required to do except there be a direct manifestation of the Spirit which may direct it.

Pray over the sick, anoint them with oil, as commanded in the law, and **leave them in my hands, that the Spirit may deal with them according to my wisdom.**

Things to Remember

- ◆ Do not administer to a women alone
 - ◆ Do not handle the body – the head alone
 - ◆ Exercise good sense and caution with contagious diseases
 - ◆ Dress appropriately and personal hygiene
 - ◆ Refrain from offering home remedies
 - ◆ Check on person
 - ◆ There to perform an ordinance – not to counsel, or proselyte
- Source: *Ordinances and Sacraments* – Yale and Brockway, 1962. Pg. 87-88

Other Practices

- ◆ Self-Anointing with oil
- ◆ Anointing animals/trees
- ◆ Crossing arms
- ◆ Surrogate Laying On of Hands