

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 4:23-24.**
- B. As I have said before, I thank God that Jesus did many miracles confirming Himself to be the Son of God.
- C. Tonight I shall look at the healing ministry of Jesus and the so-called "healing ministry" of others today.

I. "FAITH HEALERS."

- A. There are many today who claim to be healers, having the same Spirit that Jesus and the apostles.
- B. These individuals have their healing services and "perform great deeds".
- C. The Bible tells us of people who wanted the gift and those who think they have it, but did not:
 1. Simon the Sorcerer (Ac. 8:13,19).
 2. Those who did many wonderful works (Mt. 7:22, 23).
- D. There are many today who believe that they have the power of healing but even if they did have it, it would not please Jesus.
- E. "Faith healers" make 4 major mistakes in claiming they can heal diseases with power from the Holy Spirit.

II. MISTAKE ONE: JESUS HEALED ALL MANNER OF SICKNESS & DISEASE, THEY DON'T.

- A. Scripture text: Mt. 4:23,24.
- B. This would include raising people from dead (Jn. 11:39-44).
 1. Lazarus had been dead 4 days.
 2. Bound, hand and foot, could not free himself from the burial clothes.
 3. Jesus commanded Lazarus be "unbound."
- C. Paul raised people from the dead (Ac. 20:9-12)
- D. Therefore today's "faith healers" are not true healers.

III. MISTAKE TWO: JESUS HEALED EVERYONE, THEY DON'T.

- A. Scripture text: Mt. 12:15; Lk. 9:11.
- B. The key is that Jesus could heal all who needed healing.
- C. If today's "faith healers" could heal like Jesus and the apostles (Ac. 5:16), then they would put every hospital out of business.
- D. Faith was not a prerequisite of being cured of a disease. The lame man did not have faith, he wanted money (Ac. 3:1-10).
- E. Therefore, today's "faith healers" are not true healers.

IV. MISTAKE THREE: JESUS HEALED IMMEDIATELY, THEY DON'T.

- A. Scripture text: Lk. 8:43-48.
- B. Jesus did not know:
 1. Who it was who touched Him.
 2. What disease, had been healed.
 3. Why He had been touched.BUT HE HEALED HER IMMEDIATELY!
- C. How many "faith healers" today can make such a claim?
- D. Therefore, today's "faith healers" are not true healers.

V. MISTAKE FOUR: JESUS HEALED THE ENTIRE MAN (EVERY WHIT WHOLE).

- A. Jesus could restore limbs, that were missing and cure the entire man (Jn. 7:23).

- B. "Faith healers" today will not attempt to restore missing limbs of people.
- C. Story of man with missing arm being thrown out of line at faith healing services.
- D. Therefore, today's "faith healers" are not true healers.

VI. A SCRIPTURE DEFENDED BUT MISUSED.

- A. One passage used by "faith healers" to support their "ability" is Heb. 13:8
- B. The problem in using this verse is that it is speaking of Jesus' immutable nature, not His healing power.
- C. If it was speaking of His healing power then we will, have disease sickness, and death in heaven eternally because He will be able to heal from all of these forever.
- D. Jesus could not continue to heal forever unless there were people who would continue to need healing forever.

VII. WHAT REALLY HAPPENS.

- A. To me, what is taking place at a "healing service" by these "faith healers" is brought out in 2Th. 2:8-10.
- B. The problem is that people who turn to pseudo-miracles for the basis of their faith, have shipwrecked their faith.
- C. Notice how Paul finishes the thought (2Th. 2:11-14).
- D. We are called through the gospel, not miracles, not personal experience, not prayer.
- E. No wonder Jesus tells "miracle workers" to depart, they are working for Satan (Mt. 7:22,23).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The story of the rich man and Lazarus makes the point very clear. If they believe not Moses and the prophets neither will they believe if someone rises from the dead.
- B. One does not need to go into a long doctrinal dissertation about whether the gifts of healing are still around today. A simple look at the healing ministry of Jesus in comparison to today's "faith healers" is all that is needed.
- C. Therefore, today's "faith healers" are not; of God, do not have the same spirit the apostles or Jesus had, and do not heal by the power of God.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.