

# THE GREAT PHYSICIAN NOW IS NEAR

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## INTRODUCTION:

### A. What would you do if you suddenly discovered you had an inoperable fatal disease or infection?

1. **Illustration:** You haven't been feeling real good lately so you go to the doctor. The doctor tells you it is probably no big deal. A virus, bronchitis, or some other infection that some antibiotics will knock out in just a few days. No big deal, right? Well, just be safe he decides to run some tests. As you sit in the doctor's office you are planning out the rest of your day. What errands need taken care of? Where will you eat lunch? What are you going to have for dinner? What chores still need done around the house? How are you going to catch up on all you are missing at work so you can be at the doctor's office? You just wish the doctor would hurry up and give you a shot in your backside with a prescription so you leave. Finally he returns to the room, but immediately you can tell something is not right. He sits down and solemnly says, "I'm sorry, I've got some bad news, its cancer." Suddenly all the chores, meals, work, and any other physical concerns you have seem to fade away. Suddenly life gets put into a whole new perspective. Suddenly, things that seemed to matter so much have become very trivial. As you listen to the doctor's advice your soul is filled with feelings of fear, anxiety, doubt, sorrow, and concern for the unknown.
2. For some of you, this situation is more than a heart wrenching hypothetical story... It's real and it describes your life. You have heard the earth shattering words & know the feelings that accompany them. For you, life has taken on a whole new meaning and perspective.
3. What if the doctor said, "That's the bad news, now for the good news. If you will just take one of these pills and make some changes to your lifestyle you will be cured!"
  - a. Every single one of us would jump at that chance. We'd be sure we took his prescription just like he said and followed his direction just like he said. We want to be cured!
  - b. Suppose one heard a cure was available but just said, "No, I'd rather not" – Lost his mind!

### B. While it's easy to see this when it comes to the physical doctor, many fail to make the same application when it comes to The Great Physician – Jesus! The Great Physician now is near, the prescription has been given, and the cure it brings is available to all. Now, what are you going to do with it?

## COMING TO THE GREAT PHYSICIAN:

### A. When Jesus Came To This World, He Came As The Great Physician!

1. When the Pharisees questioned Him about His association with the rejected of their society, He explained His attitude & actions by comparing them to sick patients and himself to a physician: **(Luke 5:29-32)**
2. Many found in Jesus "The Great Physician" because of how He healed them of their diseases **(Matt 11:2-5)**
  - a. How was Jesus' identity proven? Certainly through the fulfillment of prophecy, but the Lord chose to reveal His identity often through healing people of their sicknesses & diseases – He cares!
  - b. The blind see, the deaf hear, lame men are walking – That's how you knew He was the Messiah!
3. Most importantly, many found Jesus to be "The Great Physician" because of the way Jesus healed them of their spiritual diseases! **(Mark 2:1-5)**
  - a. If you met these guys on the road to the house and asked, "What's wrong with that man?" You would hear, "He's crippled, He can't walk." Seeing him you'd have compassion on him due to his disability. But, if you asked Jesus, He'd say, "He's lost... Sin is what is wrong with Him!"
  - b. See Jesus does – Before Jesus healed him of his physical problem, He first addressed the man's spiritual problem. In a sense, He did it this way to prove a point – But what was the point?
  - c. We see this same thing occurring through Jesus' ministry – Whether it's the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, or the group of tax collectors & sinners! He had compassion
  - d. Whether healing their struggles of life or removing their sins – Jesus was the great physician!

4. Jesus isn't just a wonderful Savior, a wonderful Counselor, and a wonderful Friend... Jesus is a wonderful Physician. In fact, Jesus is THE GREAT PHYSICIAN! (Words To Song: [The Great Physician](#))

## **B. Now We Can Come To Jesus, The Great Physician, For The Struggles And Problems In Our Life:**

1. The great invitation of Jesus is not just about salvation from the burdens of sin, but is also about rest from the great burdens of life! (**Matthew 11:28-30**)
  - a. Ever see the bumper sticker, "Jesus is the answer!" – What's the question? The question here is, "What's the solution for the great problems people are having in their lives?"
  - b. Many people are weary and heavy laden from the problems and struggles of life. Jesus gives rest to those who come to Him. He gives freedom, renewal, hope, & peace to those without it!
  - c. This rest doesn't just come to those who decide in their mind that Jesus' rest would be nice, but for those that see rest is needed, come to Him, take His yoke upon them, & then learn from Him
2. Jesus, as The Great Physician, provides cures for the problems and struggles we face in life. We have the prescriptions left for us in His gospel! (**I Peter 1:22-25**)
  - a. The gospel of Christ can purify our souls & cause us to be born again! It is powerful to change our hearts, lives, & our relationship with God! It's abides forever, thus its powerful for all ages!
  - b. While the gospel of Christ is powerful, its power is only be limited by our response to it! The word of Christ can purify you and cause you to be born again, but you've got to obey it!
  - c. Some of the things God has commanded us is just because that's how He wants things to be, but many of things commanded are there because it is what's best for us! How many lives would be drastically improved if people would just submit to the instructions of God? (**Prov 3:7-10**)
3. Consider how the problems we have & burdens we bear are cured when we come to the great Physician:
  - a. How many are having marriage problems or even miserable in them? Jesus tells husbands to love their wives & wives to submit to their husbands. Husbands are also told to live with their wives in an understanding way and honoring them. (**Eph 5:22-33; I Peter 3:1-7**)
  - b. How many marriages have ending in divorce or are heading that way? Jesus says that there is only one reason in which you may divorce your spouse and that's it. (**Matthew 19:9**)
  - c. How many lives are being destroyed by some form of substance abuse? Jesus says not to be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit, He says not to destroy the body which is God's temple, and to allow God to control your life instead of sin (**Eph 5:18; I Cor 6:19-20; Rom 6:12-14**)
  - d. How many are chasing after materialism, are not happy, and drowning in debt? Jesus says to be content with what we have, not to be haughty, to focus on spiritual treasure (**I Tim 6:6-10**)
  - e. How many parents are losing control of their children and watching them make choices that ruin their lives? Jesus says to raise them in the nurture & admonition of the Lord (**Eph 6:4**)
  - f. How many are harboring feelings of resentment and anger toward others? Jesus says to put away bitterness, wrath, and anger. He says to be kind, compassionate, & forgiving (**Eph 4:31-32**)
4. But today many people aren't being cured of their sicknesses are they? The problem is not that Jesus is not powerful enough of a physical to cure us. The problem is not that His prescription is not good enough to cure us. The problem is that people won't accept and take the prescriptions!

## **C. Jesus Is The Great Physician For The Worst Problem Of Sin – Sin!**

1. Our greatest problem is not physical diseases or even the problems we've discussed before that plague people's lives: Man's greatest problem & predicament is the presence of sin! (**Rom 3:10, 19-20, 23; 6:23**)
  - a. No matter how moral and how good you think you may be, this truth still holds up. There is none righteous! All have sinned! You have no defense for yourself! And the wages of sin is death!

- b. It's like going getting those terrible words in the hospital, "I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do"
  - c. Those words will strike a cord of fear and despair in the heart of any person! You need to realize that without the death of Jesus & without being found in Him, you are far worse off than that
- 2. Jesus, as The Loving Great Physician, has provided the cure through His death & His blood: **(Heb 9:11-14)**
  - a. **Illustration:** What do you think when you hear of doctors who will perform surgeries or give out a prescription for free for someone who couldn't otherwise afford it? What if your doctor told you that you needed a kidney transplant and said, "I'll go ahead and give you one of mine"
  - b. We appreciate those because they show compassion & grace on the part of a physician, but The Great Physician took love & grace to a whole new level by giving His own life to save us!
  - c. On the cross Jesus paid the penalty for sin that every one of us should have paid... He died our death! It's by the blood which He shed that we can be purified, redeemed, and forgiven!
- 3. Sadly, some people recognize the problem of sin and they know where the cure is found, but they refuse to come to Christ because of pride, just like Naaman! **(2 Kings 5:1, 9-12)**
  - a. We verse 1 and we often emphasize the last phrase – "...But he was a leper." That brings all the great statements about him into a different perspective doesn't it. That's not the only "but" statement we need to see there. We also can read into this, "But he was a very proud man!"
  - b. Had it not been for the humble & rational thinking of his servants, he would have walked away refusing to be healed! He would have rather suffered & died from leprosy than do the lowly and mundane thing of washing in a dirty river! God cleaned up more than leprosy that day!
  - c. For many people their own pride stands in the way of their being cleansed from sin – a spiritual form of leprosy! Whether its thinking of a better way than God's way to be cleansed or not wanting to admit they are sinners, many just walk away from a simple cure for the problem!
- 4. The problem today is like a problem Israel experienced many years ago. Many of the Israelites were not saved, but it was not because there was no balm in Gilead! **(Jeremiah 8:18-22)**
  - a. **Illustration:** Atheist talking to his barber about there not being a God since the world is filled with problems. The barber points to people needing haircuts & saying there must not be barbers!
  - b. The problem is not that Jesus cannot save anymore. The problem isn't that his blood has become insufficient. The problem is people refuse to take the RX! It's a problem with men's hearts!
  - c. Christians often turn to **Isaiah 59:1-2** to show that God doesn't hear the prayers of sinners, but this is not Isaiah's point → He is proclaiming that the presence of sin and injustice is not because God cannot save or hear us... It's because men will not leave them behind to come to God!
- 5. Jesus' death and His shed blood has provided the cure for our sins. His word gives us the prescription Jesus has prescribed. We've got to follow His instructions! **(John 3:1-5; Mark 16:15-16)**
  - a. **Illustration:** What if the doctor gave you a prescription and you said, "I believe it can heal me" but you never took the medicine? THAT'S FOOLISH! But people do that all the time spiritually!
  - b. Jesus has instructed that we in faith be born again through being baptized into water... That is the prescription of The Great Physician... Any other prescription for dealing with sin is counterfeit
  - c. Throughout Acts we read of people who came face to face with the realization that they needed salvation from sin. Every time they responded in faith and baptism, why? Jesus said to!
  - d. The disease of sin certainly has infected the lives of all people. It is baptism, through the power of His blood and His resurrection, that washes us and saves us from sin! **(1 Peter 3:21)**

**CONCLUSION:** The Great Physician Now Is Near – Are you going to come to Him for the cure or will you walk away rejecting it?