



Title: Why Sickness?

Main Scripture: Mark 1:29-34

Why is there sickness?

(Gen 1:31, 2:16-17; Rom 5:12)

What are causes of sickness?

(Ps 107:17, 38:8; Jam 5:14, 16; 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 10:31, 11:30; Jn 5:14, 9:1-3, 11:4)

What are God's purposes for sickness?

(Rom 10:17, Mk 1:31)

Preparing for Personal Healing

If you would like prayer for healing at the Night of Healing Prayer on October 16, please prepare yourself by working through the following questions:

- For what specifically are you seeking healing? Is the root of the issue spiritual, physical, emotional or psychological in nature?
- How has this situation affected your relationship with God? How have you seen Him at work in this?
- Are there lifestyle or relational changes that God wants you to make that could enhance or improve your health? Unconfessed sin, living in continual disobedience and unforgiveness could hinder your healing. Please meditate on the following scriptures for guidance and clarity:

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Matthew 5:21-24

James 5:14-16

Colossians 3:1-11

1 Peter 3:7

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Ask God to reveal any areas of sin or unforgiveness that you need to address.

Are you willing to deal with these things? Take time to confess, repent and forgive accordingly.

Consider your willingness to surrender to God's plan for your life in this situation. How will you honour, praise and pursue Him if you are healed? How will you honour, praise and pursue Him if you are not?

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Small Group Sermon Study

Mark 1:29-34

Prayer: Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, we invite you here to teach and transform us, and lead our time together as we read, discuss and reflect on Your Word. Amen.

Icebreaker:

- Thinking about Pastor Al's story about his old 1976 Ford, that the years of rust had made it worthless, what are reminders for you that nothing in this world lasts forever?

Read Mark 1:29-34, Romans 5:12 and James 5:14, 16 together. From these scriptures and notes from listening to the sermon, discuss the following together:

- Take a minute to ask God what He wants to highlight for you personally, then share any words, thoughts or pictures that come to mind from these verses or the sermon.
- Have you ever struggled with sickness and suffering? How has that affected your view of God?
- Sickness can sometimes be a result of deliberate sin or mismanagement of resources given by God. What are some ways in which you recognize your own sin or decisions have impacted your health and well-being?
- Sickness can also be attributed to Satan's victory over Adam and Eve in the Garden, and God's providential purposes. If your sin is not clearly because of your own sin or decisions, and God has not yet healed you, then what is the perspective that Jesus invites you to have?

Personal Reflection:

- Sin is the sickness that has eternal implications, but Jesus won victory over sin, healing us of its effects through the power of the cross and His resurrection. How are you inviting Jesus to work, as the *Divine Surgeon*, to continue the work of healing you of the effects of the sickness of sin in your own life so that you experience deeper life in Him?
- *"Is any among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord"* (James 5:14, 16).
If you need prayer contact a pastor at: <https://heartlandalliance.ca/our-team>

Prayer: *Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering you gave us the example of obedience to your Father's will. Be near me in my times of weakness and pain. Sustain me by your grace, that my strength and courage does not fail. I pray you heal me according to your will, and help me always to believe that what happens to me here is incomparable to the promise I have in You of eternal life, my Lord and my God. Amen.*