

Week 2: Is God Glorified by sickness or healing?

1. God is first and foremost for his glory, and that is best for us.

### **Isaiah 48:9**

<sup>9</sup> "For my name's sake I defer my anger;  
for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,  
that I may not cut you off.

### **Matthew 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that<sup>[a]</sup> they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### **Isaiah 48:11**

<sup>11</sup> For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,  
for how should my name<sup>[a]</sup> be profaned?  
My glory I will not give to another.

### **1 Corinthians 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### **Isaiah 43:7**

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

### **Ezekiel 36:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

## Romans 15:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

## Isaiah 43:25

<sup>25</sup> "I, I am he  
who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.

If he did everything that he does ultimately for our sake, then it would be based on our performance and not His grace. The fact that ultimately he moves for his own sake means that we don't need to be perfect to receive his perfect works.

2. Is he glorified by sickness or by healing?

## John 9:1-5

### Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

<sup>9</sup> As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, **"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"** <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, **"It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.** <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world."**

God is glorified not in the sickness, he is glorified in the healing of sickness.

And his works didn't stop because he is no longer in the world. He tells us in

## Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup> **"You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to

all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that<sup>[a]</sup> they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Now it is though us that His light shines, to work in the world.

3. Q – Why then do people say God is correcting them through sickness? Or God is teaching them something. Where do they get that from?

## Numbers 12:1-10

### Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses

12 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. <sup>2</sup> ... And the LORD heard it... And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. <sup>6</sup> And he said, "Hear my words: ... <sup>8</sup> With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" <sup>9</sup> And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

<sup>10</sup> When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous,<sup>[a]</sup> like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

After this, we see in the passage that Moses intercedes for her, she is healed and brought back into community and the presence of God.

**This happening** in narrative of scripture **I believe is an example of something some will take out of context** and then say that their sickness is a correction from God.

But you will notice that **she is being directly rebellious to Moses, and she knows the reason for this correction. And the end is swiftly corrected, Aaron repents for the both of them, and Moses intercedes, and she is made well** after being unclean for seven days. The result is very quickly she is corrected and brought back.

When most people claim that they believe that God is teaching them something, if that is true it should have come with a very clear revelation from God, and a clear path back to him.

The only other example that I think may be legitimate in this case is still not a situation where someone is being directly corrected by God.

It is that sickness that can come upon people when they are holding onto bitterness or un-forgiveness in their hearts. We know this to be true. When people hold that poison in their hearts it makes them sick.

### **Proverbs 4:23**

<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.

God tells us in the word to forgive, that we may be forgiven. **Our salvation not just spiritually but physically hinges on the position of our heart.**

4. Yes but How does sovereignty work, doesn't he ultimately control everything?

compatibility? We see God can move sovereignty how he wishes. But we also see that he works through the works of mankind.

### **Romans 11:36**

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

### **Colossians 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> For by<sup>[a]</sup> him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

God is Sovereign, and all that is, is held together by the power of his being and his will, he is at work in the universe and he works his plan, but in human history he does it most often through us.

Joseph:

### Genesis 50:19-20

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people<sup>[a]</sup> should be kept alive, as they are today.

**Assyrians** sent as a judgement upon Israel. And then God says that he will also judge the Assyrians, because they did not do this in accordance to glorifying God but because of their own pride...

We are threads in His Story. Through our own desires whether our desires are good or bad, he is weaving together a grand picture.

The Grand Weaver Illustration, Ravi Zacharius.

5. The nature and character of God as revealed in Christ. Mercy and compassion.

### Psalm 145:8-9

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

In the scriptures, compassion and mercy are often rooted in the same word. The Hebrew word **rachamin** is translated both **mercy and compassion**. And the Greek word **eleeo** is translated both as have **mercy and have compassion**. And the adjective **eleemon** is defined **merciful and compassionate**.

It's important that we not just know what God can do, but see what he yearns to do, that is what inspires faith.

By showing His compassion everywhere in the healing of the sick, Jesus unveiled the compassionate heart of God to the people.

Vs. God is love.

The Lord is gracious, he is disposed to show favors.

## **Micah 7:18**

### **God's Steadfast Love and Compassion**

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?  
He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.

## **2 Chronicles 16:9**

<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless<sup>[a]</sup> toward him. ...

- The text shows God not just being willing, but eager to pour His blessings upon all who make it possible for Him to do so.

Vs. The Lord is good to all and his tender mercies are over all his works.

He is so full of compassion that he cannot be a respecter of persons.

The Lords Compassion:

## **Mark 1:40-45 New Living Translation (NLT)**

### **Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy**

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said.

<sup>41</sup> Moved with compassion,<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" <sup>42</sup> Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was

healed. <sup>43</sup> Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: <sup>44</sup> “Don’t tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. <sup>[b]</sup> This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

<sup>45</sup> But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn’t publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.

### **Matthew 14:13-14 New Living Translation (NLT)**

#### **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

<sup>13</sup> As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. <sup>14</sup> Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

### **Matthew 20:29-34 New Living Translation (NLT)**

#### **Jesus Heals Two Blind Men**

<sup>29</sup> As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind. <sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>31</sup> “Be quiet!” the crowd yelled at them.

But they only shouted louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>32</sup> When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, “What do you want me to do for you?”

<sup>33</sup> “Lord,” they said, “we want to see!” <sup>34</sup> Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed him.

I mentioned before about God acting for the glory of his name, and one thing we see as the result of healings that his name is spread far and wide. The result is more people come more people hear the message, more people get healed, more people get saved. Great multitudes glorify the God of Israel.

### **Isaiah 30:18**

#### **The LORD Will Be Gracious**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,  
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.  
For the LORD is a God of justice;  
blessed are all those who wait for him.

- His glory his exaltation, it is revealed very clearly in his mercy, and in his mercy of healing.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us<sup>[a]</sup> that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

No man can abound in every good work if they are hindered by sickness or disease.

Our confidence in Him, is anchored in His Promise. His covenant promises are given in his mercy.

### **Deuteronomy 7:9**

<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

I believe the bible makes it very clear, as I hope I have shown you today, that God is full of mercy, that he literally seeks out ways to bring good into the lives of his children, that God is for His glory, and that God is most glorified by healing his children.