

The Patience of Jesus with The Patients of Jesus

2 Chron.16:12 (Asa)

1. Severe disease
2. Did not seek LORD
3. Sought doctors
 - a. Timing: after he refused to hear Word from God
 - b. Severity: 'maybe a peripheral destructive vascular disease with ensuing gangrene'
 - c. Pride: did not seek the prophet (v.10)
 - d. Question: is it wrong to seek physicians?

Jesus' patience with His patients teaches patience

I. Ancient Medicine

Ex.1:15: midwives . . . Ex.15:26 –

Obedience gave health: regular rest, healthy food, happy marriage, quarantines, peace, etc.

Code of Hammurabi:

- Dr. operates on eye using copper lancet; loses the eye; dr. has to lose his (*eye for eye*)
- Jewish doctors operated on cataracts
- **Egyptians:** brain surgery
- **Egyptians:** practiced dentistry
 - Some Phoenicians had gold teeth

Isa.1:6, a 'totaled' body

Lk.10:34

- A common traveler provided bandages, ointment, cleansing [reverse order]
- Jer.8:22, Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?
 - Gilead was known for its balm (medical ointment)

Mt.27:34, crucifixion

- Wine mixed with myrrh: pain-killer.
He refused
- 1 T.5:23, No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities

Every Jewish town required to have physician

- Mk.5²⁵ woman had a flow of blood for 12 yrs.
²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse
- Col.4¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician...
- Because of Hippocrates (d. 375 BC), medicine was advanced in Greece
- Doctors took oath: life of a patient should come first; they would never take advantage of women, procure abortions, or reveal confidential information

I. Ancient Medicine

II. The Doctor Will See You Now

Luke 4:16-23: hearers demand proof...

- Has he Improved His own circumstances?
Is He different?
- Proverbs:
 - ‘A physician for others, but himself teeming with sores’ – Euripides, Fragments
 - ‘Physician, heal thine own limp’
 - ‘Physician, heal thyself’
- Why He refused: 24-27

Luke 5:27-32

- Pharisees would not admit their own sickness
- Jesus:
 1. They must realize their need
 2. Repent of sins
- Requires . . .
 1. Humility
 2. Desire to learn
 3. Honesty

Physical healing = signs; prove His divine mission

- Mt.4:23-24, heal *all* (General practitioner)
- Mt.8:7-8...13, *distance*; house calls [Lk.15]
- Mt.8:14-16, *with a word* – *bedside manner*
- Mt.10:8, helpers – *physician's assistants*

Spiritual healing: salvation (primary mission)

- Mt.13:15, healed (= Mk.4:12, forgiven)
- Lk.4:18, brokenhearted

1 Pt.2:24

- Sin: universal disease
- Jesus: the Great Physician –

Paradoxes of Jesus

- Without His tears, there is no comfort
- Without His death, there is no life
- Without His blood, there is no pardon
- Without His cross, there is no crown
- Without His shame, there is no glory
- Without His grief, there is no joy
- Without His stripes, there is no healing

Spiritual healing: salvation (primary mission)

1 Pt.2:24

- Jesus: the Great Physician –
 1. Diagnoses sin, 24. Mt.22:29
 2. Doctors our wounds, 24 [Acts 2]
 3. Delivers from disease, 24 [if we follow doctor's orders]: Judas... Peter... Ac.2... 9

I. Ancient Medicine

II. The Doctor Will See You Now

**III. The Patience of Jesus With
the Patients of Jesus**

Mt.12:20

- A bruised reed cannot stand upright; useless
- Imperfect flax fibers make wicks smoke. Irritating. Most throw them away
 - Jesus patiently fans it into a flame
 - He is patient with . . .
 - the weak
 - the useless
 - the irritating

Mt.12:20, Examples

- **Clueless saints.**
 - James / John, Mt.20, seek promotions
 - Peter, Mt.16; ...26 [Jn.21; Ac.2]
 - Philip, Jn.14:...8-9
- **Corrupt sinners.** Lk.15, prodigal – unworthy
- **Cynical snobs.** Lk.15, older brother – hateful

I. Ancient Medicine

II. The Doctor Will See You Now

III. The Patience of Jesus With ...

**IV. We Need The Patience of
Jesus With the Patients of Jesus**

What would Jesus do?

- Mt.18:26, forgive
- 1 Th.5:14, patient ... with all
- 2 Th.1:4, steadfast endurance
 - [‘masculine constancy under trial’]
 - Don’t just survive, but benefit from it
 - This patience works and lasts
 - Jesus makes patience a blessing
- 2 Tim.2:24, teaching
- Ja.1:4, perfect work – endures to the end

“The best among doctors deserves Gehenna”
[for bad treatment of some, neglect of others]

- Jesus never failed a patient – Intensive Care
 - Jn.10:13-15
 - 1 Pt.5:7
- Something to live for . . .
- Ps.116:15