

WHEN YOU'RE SICK OF SICKNESS—PART 2

January 23, 2022 | Isaiah 38:10-20 | Pastor Mike Foster

Our world has been gripped by sickness in a way few of us have ever experienced. Whether we've actually been sick, our lives have been changed by sickness in the past two years. And most of us, for many reasons, are just plain sick of sickness. And yet, as much as we hate to admit it, and as much as we try to escape it, sickness is ultimately unavoidable. It is here to stay. But Jesus is also here to stay! And Jesus offers us not only a redemptive view of sickness, but also real power to overcome sickness and real promises to cling to in the midst of sickness. Because when sickness won't let go, neither will God.

The humbling reality of sickness (vv. 10-14)

The unique opportunity in sickness (vv. 15-16)

The greater benefits of sickness (v. 17)

The purpose of health and life (vv. 18-20)

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Meditate on 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, James 5:13-16, Psalm 103:1-5, and 2 Chronicles 7:13-14.
- Listen to "It is Well with my Soul" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhaTlu_k4w0
- Listen to "Promises" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5m09rqOoxE
- Read this excellent essay on sickness by J.C. Ryle in 1878 – www.gracegems.org/Ryle/sickness.htm
- Read and reflect on Luther's letter "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague" written in 1527 and yet full of implications and applications today – www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/may-web-only/martin-luther-plague-pandemic-coronavirus-covid-flee-letter.html
- Read "How did Early Christians Respond to Plagues?" - www.biola.edu/blogs/good-book-blog/2020/how-did-early-christians-respond-to-plagues
- Read "When We Suffer" by Mary J. Yerkes – www.focusonthefamily.com/get-help/when-we-suffer-a-biblical-perspective-on-chronic-pain-and-illness/
- Read "When Cancer Interrupts" – www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/when-cancer-interrupts/
- Read "Seven Principles of a Seeking-God Lifestyle" - www.dayandnight.org/seven_principles_of_a_seeking_god_lifestyle
 - * For those who wish to seek the Lord through a dedicated season of prayer and fasting, this ministry provides many helpful resources: www.dayandnight.org

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you from the message?
2. Share about a time when you have been sick. How did you feel? How did you think about your sickness?
3. What has it looked like for you to call on the Lord in the midst of sickness? Have you ever invited the elders of the church to pray over you (James 5:13-16)? What was that experience like?
4. Share about a time when the Lord either delivered you from sickness (James 5:15) or gave you grace to endure through the sickness (2 Corinthians 12:1-10).
5. What would you say to someone who suggests that sickness results from a lack of faith in God for healing?
6. What are some ways you have seen the Lord use sickness for good in your life or in the lives of others? (Consider Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20)
7. What are some specific promises from God we can trust in during this moment of history as we are still gripped by sickness as a society?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5. What promises from God do you see in this passage for the believer in Christ?
9. How sure are you today that you will receive a home in heaven where there will be no more suffering and an eternal body which will never become sick? (John 3:16, John 11:25-26)
10. Spend some time praying for God's help and healing for those who are sick and for God's mercy on us as a people and as a society.