

When The Healer Needs Healing

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PASTOR NATHANIEL: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word. Today I want to talk to some of you that are going through some things; but I want to, first of all, just tell you about a few of Elisha's miracles. Elisha was the Prophet who came after the Prophet Elijah.

In 2 Kings, 2nd chapter beginning at the 19th verse, where he cleansed the poisoned waters, it reads: "And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my Lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land." So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake." Then Elisha called forth the she-bear who had ridiculed the Prophet, and 42 children were slain from the she-bear.

Elisha purified the pot of stew in 2 Kings, the 4th chapter, beginning at the 38th verse.

Elisha fed 100 men in 2 Kings, 4th chapter, beginning at the 42nd verse: "And there came a man from Baalshalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. And his servitor said, What, should I set before this an hundred men? And he said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the Lord, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof. So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the Word of God. Here, the servitor had said, "How am I going to feed all these folks with just this?" He said, "Put it there, and they are going to have more left", the same as Jesus did with the miracle of the fishes, the loaves.

In 2 Kings, Chapter 3, beginning at the 16th verse, Elisha made water in a barren land.

And then Elisha in 2 Kings, the 6th chapter, the 5th verse, he made the iron axe head swim, and I even preached a whole message on that entitled "How to Make Iron Swim". You can hear that message at AirJesus.com; it's Message No. 5251, a part of the Manifestation Series.

And then in 2 Kings, 4th chapter, beginning at the 32nd verse, Elisha raised the dead: "And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed." And here, the Bible talks about Elisha with the Shunammite woman, and he laid on the child and breathed into the child, and the child eventually came back to life. Here, he raised someone from the grips of death itself.

Elisha healed Naaman, the leper, who he had go and dip into the river sevenfold. And even Elisha's bones, it says "And Elisha died and they buried him, and the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year and it came to pass as they were burying a man that, behold, they spied a band of men and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood up on his feet. Here was a man whose healing was so strong that Elisha was not only dead, but the flesh had left his bones. Since, you know, your flesh will hang on there for a while, and there was nothing left but his bones. And they saw a band and threw the man in the sepulcher, and all he did was just touch the bones of Elisha, and a dead man got up and walked from just touching the bones! So you can imagine if the man had that much healing power in just his bones, what was he like when he was alive? Here was the man who had asked for a double portion of what Elijah had, miracle after miracle after miracle after miracle; and even after the man was dead, still, miracles came.

I want to talk to you today from 2 Kings; it's the 13th chapter and the 14th verse. This is the critical verse where this whole message hinges. In this verse it says, "Now Elisha was fallen sick of the sickness whereof he died"; "Elisha was fallen sick of the sickness, whereof he died".

I want to talk to you today for a few minutes from the title of "When the Healer Needs Healing". Here is this man who had healed all these folks, raised people from the dead. And, see, people, modern medicine has some miraculous things which it can do, but there comes a state of life where breath has left the body for a period, and there is nothing medical science can do. This man they threw on his bones had been dead a long time. You see, when Elisha healed him, the child had died, and his mother rode an animal and went to see Elisha, had to go get him and return; that probably took a couple of days. Do you know, if you are dead and the brain is without oxygen for over three minutes, you start getting severe brain damage? So even if modern medicine could bring the body back, if the body has been laying there over ten minutes, the brain is shot!

So, here, Elisha brought people back from the dead who had been dead a long time and brought them back in sound mind and in sound body; but here it says Elisha was fallen sick, and he died from the sickness: "When the Healer Needs Healing".

My wife's cousin was a doctor. He came to this church, you all saw him. He looked good, he looked vibrant, he looked young; he was 50 years old. Before he was 51, he was dead. He died of cancer. And here he had been instrumental in the healing of so many people throughout his medical career, and here he was a man of my identical age; and yet when the healer needed healing, he could not get himself healed.

Paul Howard, who is the Fulton County District Attorney, is the top prosecutor in the largest county in the state of Georgia. I even went to see Paul Howard a while back about a person we had here in the Ark who was in trouble. And I sat in Paul Howard's office, and Paul Howard asked me, "Pastor Bronner," he said, "if I intervene in this case and if I step in," he said, "will you be responsible for the person?" I said, "No!" I said, "No, I'm not going to be responsible!" I said, "That rascal hasn't done right, and you expect me -- no, I'm not going to be responsible!" I said, "What I will do is, I will help. I will set some criteria," I said, "but if they violate those criteria, your boys are going to have to come get him." I said, "So, no, I'm not going to be responsible. I will do the best that I can to help with the situation. I will give my time. I will give my resources, I will do the best I can do; but I'm not going to be responsible. You are going to come get him if he doesn't act right." That's exactly what I told him. And he stepped in and helped with that situation, the top legal prosecutor in the state of Georgia. And my wife told me the other day that she'd heard on the radio that Paul Howard himself had an arrest warrant out on him; it was nothing major, it was something that happened in the courtroom. It looked like he had pushed somebody, and they'd filed a suit against him. But here is a situation of where here the legal expert himself needed a lawyer. What happens when the healer needs healing?

I remember when Oral Roberts went for the surgery on his shoulder. Oral Roberts had laid hands on so many people, countless thousands, and had brought divine healing. And the very arm, the very shoulder that he had used to lay healing, used to touch all these people, used to divine and bring them a miracle, the very shoulder that he had used to touch thousands upon thousands upon thousands, he had to have surgery on that very shoulder. And since 1991, he's had prostate surgery, he's had surgery to alleviate narrowing of the arteries that carry blood to the head, he's had surgery to improve the blood flow to his heart, and he just broke his hip a few months ago and had to have surgery on his hip. What happens? And I know Oral had to ask God, "God, you've let me touch all these thousands of folks and bring this, and here is the very shoulder that I've used to touch the folks, the very shoulder, I've got to go into surgery." What happens when the healer needs healing?

My wife told me that she had bought recently the Ultimate Relationship guide by Tony Robbins. She was telling me how she had seen it advertised and seen him talking about it on television and how awesome it seemed to be, so she had bought it. I said, "Puddin', it probably is awesome. But you realize he couldn't fix his own relationship. He's divorced." She said, "What?" I said, "Yeah, he fixed his relationship. He got another wife, that's how he solved it. So the "ultimate relationship" he's talking about is with the new wife. He got a new wife! That isn't a solution!" And when he divorced the old wife, he had been preaching that stuff and had been a motivator for 20 years! The healer, he'd been healing other folks in all their situations with all that positive thinking. He had been healing folks for 20 years, but what happened when the healer needed healing?

Dr. Phil! Dr. Phil is advising people right and left, but Dr. Phil couldn't make it with the first Mrs. Phil. So what happens when the healer needs healing?

See, Elijah was telling me not too long ago about a famous couple in ministry, and they were famous for marriage counseling. They had been counseling couples for 40 years, and at 60 years of age, they got a divorce. What happens when the healer needs healing?

I have had financial experts come to me who teach, train and conduct classes about finance; and they have come to me and said, "Mr. Bronner, I am in financial trouble. Can you help bail me out?" What happens when the healer needs healing?

Now, I'm relating all of this stuff to Elisha and to all of these other folks, but there's so many of you. And I want to read an email that I got just a couple of days ago. This is similar to what so many of you are going through. A woman emailed me and said, "Dear Pastor Nathaniel, why is it that God provides for me and I am able to meet other folks' needs, and the one time when I have a need to be met and I'm praying to God to help me, there is no help in the flesh to meet my needs? I recently retired from 'blank' -- I'm not going to put the company there, because I don't want to reveal her identity -- "After working there for 'blank number' of years of service and I received a good amount of money, it looked like folks came from everywhere needing help. I asked God why I had to be the one to help all these needy people in my life; why couldn't I take my money and lay on the beach somewhere, any beach?" That's what she said: "Why couldn't I just take my money and go to the beach?" She said, "I don't care what beach." She said, "Let me go somewhere." But she said, "All these folks came out of everywhere needing help. I gave until I had no more money, or time or energy. Pastor, giving felt so good, I even gave my mortgage moneys, which now I know was stupid' but where is God for me is my question. I am now two notes in arrears on my house note. Please understand, I am not begging; I just would like to know why I am led to give my all, and no one can help me." What happens when the healer needs healing?

Some of you have given your last drop of blood, your last dime. You have struggled, and you have strained, and you have cried, and you have carried people for years and years and years, and you have put all this in it. You sweated, you stayed up at night, you worried, you prayed over all these folks, and then you get in trouble. You have spent all this for other folks, doing all this for other folks, caring with compassion; and then when you need someone to listen to your concerns and when you need compassion, all you can get is silence. Why? Why? You have to ask, "Why? I have done all this stuff. I've spent all this energy, all this sweat, all these tears, doing for other folks, and yet when I need healing, where is the help? Where is the healing?"

I know when Elisha was stricken with the illness that caused his death, he had to say, "Why couldn't I go like Elijah? He didn't die of a sickness; he was just lifted up! If I ask for a double portion of his anointing, it seems I would have been lifted up twice as fast! If I got the double portion, it seems I would have gotten the double ride. Instead of the double ride, I got a double portion of all these miseries; but I have to bear this sickness. Why?"

But you will never understand some things, and I know Elisha with all of his revelations and with all of his direct connections to God and all of the miracles he had performed, he had to wonder when sickness came to his body and he couldn't get rid of it. And as he laid there on his deathbed, he had to ask the question, "Why? Why? What do I do when the healer needs healing?"

Mark 6:31 begins: "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place, but many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came to Him. 'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.' But He answered, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'That would take eight months of a man's wages. Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?' 'How many loaves do you have?' He asked. 'Go and see.' When they found out, they said, "Five -- and two fish."

What do you do when the healer needs healing? There came a point when Jesus had to tell the disciples, "Look, you need to go away, and you need to get some rest." Turn to the person next to you and tell them, "You need to get some rest!" There comes a point. Jesus said, "Look, these folks are pulling on you. They're pulling every drop of blood, every drop of energy, and they won't stop. Do you know, when they got on the ship, the folks ran ahead? They were getting away, trying to get a little rest, trying to get a little vacation. When they got to the other side, people were still waiting on them!"

You have got to rest! And there comes a point, people, for those of you who are in the position where you as the healer are carrying such a load where everybody is pulling on you. And oftentimes what you'll have in a family, you will always have one who is called Big Mama. Everybody pulls on Big Mama. You know what I'm talking about. Everybody goes and everybody pulls on Big Mama. And when Big Mama gets in trouble, there is no one else to pull Big Mama up. And everybody will grab and pull.

Sometimes, people, you have got to go, and you have got to do just like what Jesus did. Jesus said, "Look, you don't even have time enough to even eat, they're pulling on you so much." You've got to learn to go and rest. That's why so many pastors break down physically, they break down psychologically, their families break up because everybody is pulling on them. I'm not going to let all of you pull on me to death. I'll tell you that right off the bat. I'll just be straight about it. I don't hide. I don't give out my cell number, I don't give out my phone number at home; you can't contact me. You can call me at the office. I spend more time than almost anybody I know helping people, but I've got a limit. I'll cut folks off in a hurry, and I'm not going to let people mess me up. I'm just honest about it, because the stuff will never end! Even sometimes on MountainWings, I spend so much time just even sometimes counseling people over the internet. They will write, and if I answer a question, they will write back, and the problems never end. I can't spend all my time talking to these folks! They will never stop! So you have to have a point, and you have to know, because you also have to eat. You know, people will drain you to no end, and you will have to have some wisdom to understand that you've got to have some rest to even let the healer get healed or else you will break down.

The second thing you've got to do is, you have to count your fish. Say, "Count your fish." You need to count your fish. Now, don't take your mortgage money and pay somebody else's bills with it, and you can't pay your rent. Now, let me tell you that real clear, because, see, you can't help anybody; and I tell people this. Now, the disciples were able to do that, because they had Jesus right by their sides. It's fine for you to go out on the lake if you can walk on the water. You understand what I'm saying? But don't you step out on the lake if you can't walk on the water without a lifejacket or a boat or you know how to swim.

We had a member here who drowned, because they went to Lake Lanier, and they were reading the Bible by the edge of the lake and somehow just walked into the lake. I have a boat up at Lake Lanier. Lake Lanier is extremely dangerous on the shoreline, because it drops off drastically, and they do that so boats can get close; but the way they have it dredged, if you walk out two feet into the lake, and all of a sudden you step into a 20-foot dip; and that's what happened. He couldn't swim! Now, I go up to Lake Lanier, I jump off the boat out in the middle of the lake, and I swim all around. I can swim. And I have a little pouch on me that if I get in trouble, I pull the ring and it inflates. See, Pastor can swim; but Pastor isn't a fool! I get out there and get a cramp -- and cramps can happen; anything can happen -- I'm going to pull that ring. See, I'm not going to sit out there and talk about, "Help me, Jesus." Look! You need to have some sense and some wisdom! Don't you take your mortgage money, I don't care what kind of trouble somebody is in, because if you take your mortgage money and pay somebody else's bill, your responsibility is to your household first. I can't come in there telling Puddin', "Puddin', I've given away the

house-mortgage money and we have to go to the shelter, because I helped somebody first." I can't go in there and tell Puddin' that!

So one of the first things is, you have to count your fish. And you can help people; but you can't help people with the fish that you have to feed your family unless you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you've got some supernatural money coming in. Now, if you can walk on the water, that's fine; but I just haven't seen that. Most folks who go out into the middle of that lake that can't swim, with no boat and no lifejacket, they drown. So you need to be able to walk on the water, you need to have a boat and a lifejacket or you definitely need to be able to swim.

The other thing you need to realize as a healer is this: God could not save most of the folks. Matter of fact, not only could He not save most of the folks, He could only save a remnant. What makes you think you are any better than God? There are some folks you just can't save. Now, I've learned that the hard way. I have beaten my head. Some folks, you can't change their patterns. You can't save them. You can try over and over; those folks won't do right, they won't act right, and they won't listen. They keep doing the same thing over and over, and they will drag you right on down with them to where you are sick. When people are in a continual cycle that's been going on over and over and over, you pay the rent one month, they're back the next month for you to pay the rent; they're back the next month to pay the rent. Twelve months later, they still won't pay the rent. That's not going to ever change!

You've got to understand that unless you sometimes remove yourselves from some situations, if the people won't change, you have to make sure; you've got to be real sure about that stuff, because I don't want you to be in this lady's position. Now, she doesn't know how she is going to pay her rent, and she can't get the money from the folks she loaned it to; even if they had it, they wouldn't give it to her. That's the other thing about it. If you lend folks money, but they won't even pay you back when they get it! They won't even pay you back when they get the money.

So don't you take your mortgage money, and don't you go out and waste it on somebody else when you have not taken care of home first. People, there are going to be times when the healer is going to need healing. There are some things -- I'm not even finished with this message; but there are some things that they even go beyond that are sometimes unavoidable that you will have to go through. There will come times in life, for those of you who are caregivers and caretakers and helpers, where you yourselves will go through the same thing that Elisha went through, and you will wonder, "Why does the healer need healing?" Some of you are going to need this, because I don't want you to be in that position. Some of you have such giving hearts, and you will give until you give out. And there's another key that I've learned in life: if you give people too much too long, it doesn't help them, it cripples them. And they become dependent on a handout. They figure they can just put it in

their budget. You know, it's just in their budget. It cripples them, it really does. It cripples them.

I will help people to a certain point and to a certain degree; but after that, I'll say, "Look, you have to start getting yourself together. My job is not to continue to support you, it is to help you; but I'm not going to continue to support you forever. You need to get yourself together."

These are some of the things, people, that you have to learn, or it will mess you up and cripple them. When the healer needs healing, and all of us are going to need healing. There is no way around it. All of us are going to need healing. Even Elijah, even though he was taken, he needed his spirit healed. I preached about that in the sermon called "The Elijah Syndrome". You may need to go and listen to that. All of us are going to need it, all of us will get to a point where we are down in areas. All of us will need it. All of us who counsel other people with relationships, all of us will go through problems. All of us who even lend people money, all of us will have financial ups and downs. All of us who give the people the health knowledge and lay on hands, as these bodies age, all of us will have issues.

Each one of us who are healers, we will need healing. And there is only one true source of healing. Now, God can send some things through flesh, for He is the source of all healing, and all of us will go through it and all wonder. And we will wonder just like the lady in that email, "I've given so much to so many for so long, and now I need it, and I can't find it."

Now, you are going to go through it one of these days. And what you have to understand, people, there are some things that you will go through in life, and no one can help you. See, there are some things in the darkness of the night and in the darkness of your soul, there is no human who can help you. There are some things I can't lift people out of! I can counsel with them for a hundred years, there are some things I can't do! And you will run into some situations where no human being will ever be able to bring you out of it.

There is only one Ultimate Healer. And I know that I will have to run into some situations; but I'm not worried about it, because I know I'm attached to the Ultimate Healer. I know that if I have to run into a situation, God will use that situation for His own purposes and for His own good, because the other thing about it, there is no one who can quite minister to someone who is sick than someone who has been sick. See, some things I can even relate to. I can't even relate to some stuff. But when you've been there and when you can truly say, "Child, I know what you are going through," when you've been there, it's a whole different empathetic vibration. And sometimes God will have to send you through some sickness in one form or another just so you can relate to somebody, because if you have never gone

through it, you will say to yourself, "Why in the world don't they just straighten up?"

It's not that easy. If you've never been in the grip of a thing, you don't even have an understanding of what the grip is like. The people who can deliver drug addicts the best are former drug addicts. The people who can get prostitutes off the street the best are former prostitutes. Those who have gone through it and who have successfully come out of it, they are healing and they can impart it to someone else, because they have gone through it.

Even the greatest natural-health teachers, Trudeau, who has a book called "Natural Cures", when you start reading it, he begins with his own testimony. He says, "I found this stuff, because I was sick!" Sometimes it is the sickness that will lead you to the cure, and you'll go all over the world to find there is only one place you can get the cure, and some time until you realize that. I met God through misfortune. Did you know that? I met God through misfortune, sure did. It began with falling off my motorcycle; scraped up the pieces, but when I got up, nothing was broken and I wasn't dead and I was supposed to be? I met God through some stuff.

I wish I could say I just met Him from reading the Bible. Huh-huh, huh-huh. That's just not my story; that's not my testimony. I met God through some stuff, through some "pow!" I met God through some stuff and, see some of you right now are going through some "pow!", and you don't know what. He's got to get your attention. And the only way He can get some of our attentions is "pow!" And we've got this big, red print on the side of our heads and we're hollering about the print; but that's just the Hand of God.

See, people, we read in the Bible and we talk about the Hand of God; but when you read the Bible, when God stretched forth His Hand, stuff happened ... and it wasn't all pleasant stuff. Usually when He stretched forth His Hand, there was some rough stuff that happened.

So some of you will have to go through some sickness so that you can become the healer. And you don't know and you don't understand; all you know is, things are sick. But when you come out of it, you will be able to tell and you will be able to lead; you will be able to guide some other people, because you have gone through it.

Is there anyone here today who wants to give and dedicate your life to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ? That's the only cure for some things in your life. With Him, all things are healthy; without Him, nothing is!

Is there anyone else? He can raise the dead, and if you've got some stuff in your life that's dead, and you don't even understand and don't know how it's going to get healed. By every law of the natural it's dead; every sign says it's dead; when you put

the stethoscope on it, it says it's dead; when you run the electrocardiogram on it and it says it's dead; when you shine the light on the pupil and it says it's dead; when you take the pulse, and it says it's dead? Some of you have stuff, and everything around you -- every signal, every sign -- says some things in your life are dead; and you don't know how to get them back alive, you've gone and tried everything! You need a miracle. And miracles are things that you can't explain.

If you need some things done in your life that man cannot do, you've got to look up for the Miracle Worker. You need to be hooked back up with our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I don't know why it's taking me so long; I am over time today, and I realize it; but for some reason, there's still a couple more people that it's tugging at you right now, and God is trying to change it and turn it around. God says, "You've been going through it." And there is only One, there is only One, there is only One. The world will try to give you a lot of different paths, but there is only One.

As God was speaking some things to me, I will tell you what it was and how it applies to this day two Sundays from now.

I thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. If you'd like to hear this message over again, simply go to AirJesus.com. It's Message No. 5-2-9-7, "When the Healer Needs Healing," Message No. 5297. We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word. Amen, amen. I couldn't even get fully finished with the message today, but you got the point. You did get the point; I couldn't get through, but you did get the point.