

Pt. 11 Healing Acts

Sermon Title: **pt. 11 Healing Acts**

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Speaker: **Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Show kindness to people, be generous with people, be the living expression of God's kindness.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is Part 11 of the series titled, "Healing Acts" by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7891.

(Music Playing: (00:00:18 - (00:00:30)

Female: And now for, Healing Acts, Part 11.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother you need the word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining is online at BrothersoftheWord.com. With social media, thank you for tuning in and joining today's service. I would like to share just a little humor.

A man and his friend were playing golf one day at a local golf course, and one of the guys is about to chip onto the green when he sees a long funeral procession on the road next to the course. He stops mid-swing, takes off his golf cap places it over his heart, closes his eyes and bows in prayer. His friend says "wow, that is the most thoughtful and touching thing I have ever seen. You truly are a kind man." The man then replies "he said, yeah", he said "well, that is the least I can do. We were married for 35 years."

Well, we are doing our final part in our study of "Healing Acts" in the Book of Acts. This is the final healing account that we will cover. I have enjoyed and I just had so much fun digging into all of these healing accounts and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to us today about his miraculous healing power and powerful principles and truth to touch and transform our lives today.

Well, this last one is over in the 28th Chapter, Acts Chapter 28. Acts Chapter 28 and this is the Apostle Paul, and he was at this time, Paul was actually a prisoner and he had been to Trial a couple of times in Israel in Jerusalem, and so forth. He had been before to counselling before. Pilot and Felix and some of these governors and rulers in Israel, and so they basically, when they found out that Paul was a Roman, they wanted to ship him off to Rome and let him go before Caesar. And so, this is a long ride by ship to travel to Rome. And so, as they were traveling,

there was this great storm that came up and an angel of the Lord had appeared to Paul and had told Paul that no man's life would be lost but the ship would be lost. And so surely, Paul did kind of console everyone. He said, "look, we are not going to perish nobody's going to die in this horrible storm that's about to hit us." So he said, "take heart in that." So surely, the storm hit the boat, the boat broke into pieces and they were about to kill the prisoners because, keep in mind, Paul was a prisoner. So he was a prisoner and they had a host of other prisoners on this boat on this voyage that they were taking to Rome. And so, when the ship broke apart, they had decided to kill the prisoner so none of them would escape. But then, of course in order to save Paul, one of the guards "he said, no." He said "we don't need to kill anyone. We will watch them real closely and let them get to shore then we will apprehend them again.

So surely that they agreed to do that. And so those that could swim swam to the shore, those that could, you just grab the piece of the boat and hang on. You'll out the waves to float you on into this island. So, they floated into this little island called Melita. The island called Melita. And on this island, some interesting things began to happen and it's interesting to note that this island was not a part of the itinerary, so they were not planning to go to this island. This was not part of the itinerary. Paul wasn't planning to go here. They were not planning to go to this island, however, even though they had not planned to go there yet, they ended up there because of the storm that had thrown them there and Paul realizes that after getting there that God had worked for him there.

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God had worked for him to do right there. And so, it teaches us that even stormy winds and storms fulfill God's counsel. Even stormy winds and storms fulfill God's counsel and this bad wind blew good to the Island of Melita. It was a bad storm, but it blew something good to the Island of Melita. Let us know that was meant for evil God intends for good. And so, things that we go through bad situations and bad things in our lives that are meant for evil, but yet God can use them for good. And so, God used something that was seemingly bad, but God turned it and He used it for someone's good. And so, the storm which was terrible, this terrible tempest that throw things up, yet it blew good to the Island of Melita. I love that.

And so now, the gospel shows up to Melita. The gospel the goodness shows up to Melita. It wasn't on the itinerary; it wasn't on the plan but all of a sudden, the gospel shows up to Melita. Good news comes to Melita. Good news shows up on the shores of Melita. Good news comes to the shores of Melita. And I love that. I love that. I love that something good happens to Melita out of a bad storm.

Well, let's read some of the verses. I just want to give you a little background on the story so you can understand what we're reading. Let's read verses, Verses 1 through 10, covers the entire account and I'll kind of backtrack through and teach through it. Verse 1, it is the Acts Chapter 28. Verse 1 it says "And when they were escaped then they knew that the island was called Melita, and the barbarous people", now barbarous simply mean indigenous, it means that they were the natives that live there. They were the natives that lived there and they didn't really follow any particular customs, so they weren't following Jewish custom or Greek cultures and so forth. They have their own way of living. They were free people and they were just living out on this beautiful island. This island was between Africa and Sicily, so this little island was sitting there.

And so Verse 2, "And the barbarous people showed us no little kindness. No little kindness." That it actually means unusual. They show them unusual kindness. Unusual kindness. What is this? This unusual kindness is what they showed them. It was kindness that was beyond the ordinary, so they show them unusual kindness. What was that? Well, that was God. That was God. Remember, God had promised them that no man's life would be lost and so God had to fulfill that promise. So, think about it, if they had come to the island and it was cold, they were wet, if there was no food, they would have died still so God had to take care of them. His providential care that brought them through the storm and the shipwreck now rested on them on the Island of Melita.

And so God's supernatural kindness now begins to shine through the people of Melita. And so, they showed them no little kindness. This is extraordinary kindness. This is God's kindness. It is actually the hand of God providentially being kind and being good to His people. "For they kindle the fire and receive us everyone because of the present rain and because of

the cold.” It was cold and they were wet. They had just come out of those cold water and they were wet, it was freezing and you know, these people just took them in and received everyone. I’m now, keep in mind, these were prisoners. They were kind to prisoners. They were kind to prisoners. They were kind to them and they made a fire for them.

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And look at Verse 3, so when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat and fastened on his hand. And Verse 4, when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves “No doubt this man is a murderer whom though, he had escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffers him not to live.” So they thought that because this venomous snake had attached to his hand that even though he had escaped the peril of the sea, he couldn’t run away from God’s judgment. He still was going to die. So they figured out he was a murderer. But Paul shook the little snake off into the fire just as I would have. He shook the little snake off right on into the fire.

And so, they were now watching him waiting for him to die. They were waiting for him to be swollen and you know, they were waiting for him to go into convulsions and to faint and die, and he never did he was fine. And so, he shook that thing off in Jesus name. So, the power of the Holy Spirit, the authority of Jesus name was active and operative in his life, the life of Christ Jesus was active and operative in his life. This is a fulfillment of what Jesus had told them in Mark 16, He said “you you’ll take up any deadly thing, any serpent and won’t body.” No poison and the body and so this is the fulfillment of exactly what Jesus had told them “because of the Life of Christ, because of the name of Jesus it was greater than any poison greater than anything that would harm.” And so that was the authority of Christ Jesus that he operated in and He lived in full of the spirit, full of the life of Christ. In operating and authority of His name, He shook that snake right off into the fire. And so then the people saw that and they change their mind and said, “well, he’s not a murderer, He is a God.” They changed their tune really quickly. You know from saying that he was a murderer into saying that “this guy is a God.”

So anyway, go on and you drop down to Verse 7, here is the kindness again. I want you to see the kindness showing up

again. And in the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island. This was a Roman official. He was the highest-ranking Roman official on that island whose name was Publius. Then notice what it says “In the same quarters were possessions or the estate of the chief man of the island whose name was Publius who received us. Here’s that kindness again and lodged us three days courteously.” So, there was that kindness. There is that generosity and the supernatural kindness and favor really from God that God put in these people to show to His people.

So this is God’s kindness and it came to pass, look at Verse 8, “And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux to whom Paul entered in and prayed and laid His hands on him and healed them.” And so, this the God that has showed them kindness. This is the God who is gracious to them, who is generous to them, who had put them up gave him lodging, food, and took care of them and Paul saw that that guy’s father was sick and immediately went in and prayed laid his hands on him and he was healed. Praise God.

Laid His hands on him in Jesus name and he was healed. And so, it shows us here that the kindness, this man never asks or healing. He never asked Paul for a healing. He never asked for his father to be healed. Paul saw the need and it was because of the God’s generosity, it is because of his kindness, it is because they had been so gracious and so kind the benevolent heart of God was seeking to see what it could do for anyone here on this Island. So, God’s kindness reciprocated their kindness because they had been kind, they were now receiving kindness back to them. And so, God’s kindness was being reciprocated back to them. And so Paul just entered in pray for him laid His hands on him in Jesus name and the man was healed.

Folks, it’s time for us to lay our hands-on people in Jesus name and let him be healed. Let him be healed. As that simple. We’ve complicated things. It’s not that complicated. You pray, lay your hands on him in Jesus name and let them be healed. Let them be healed. We are at the heal of Gods to heal her it’s the name of Jesus that does the healing. Our command is just to pray and lay hands on Him. Let God do the work. And so, we don’t have to figure it out or know how it works, you just pray and lay your hands on Him in Jesus name and lift the authority of His name go to work. Let the power of the spirit go to work.

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Let God's healing power operate and manifest in people's lives. Praise God. That's all Paul did, he just went in and pray, laid his hands. Went in and pray, laid his hands.

Once again, this is the fulfillment of what Jesus said in Mark 16, "You lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. You will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. You lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Your part is to lay hands on, it's God's part to recover. Those that believe shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Your part is to be a believer and to lay hands on, it's God's part to do the recovery. You lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. St. Paul remembered that Jesus taught that. He says those that believe in my name, you will lay hands on the sick, they all recover. And that's all Paul did. He went in and pray, laid his hands on him, God recovered and praise God. Isn't that wonderful that we have a healing power in His name. We have healing power in the church today. We have healing power as believers in Christ Jesus. He's still the same Lord. He's still the same healer today and we simply pray and lay hands on the sick in Jesus name and let them be recovered. Praise God.

And so notice, Verse 9, now watch this. So when this was done others also which had diseases and the island came and were healed. So, this begin to spread around the whole island. They heard what was happening man. They heard revival was happening in Publius' house, and so, the whole island came. These barbarous people brought their sick, they had been hospitable, they had been kind, they had been generous and now God was being kind, God was being generous. God was being hospitable right back to them. You can't be God giving no matter how hard you try. You can't be God giving. And these people would good to people and so God was good to them. God was good to them. God was reciprocating their kindness back to them. God was reciprocating their kindness back to them even though He furnished them the kindness to be kind with to begin with. This is kindness. It's His kindness.

Let me say this, you're never more like God than when you are kind to each other. You are never more like God than when you are kind to each other. You never more like God. If you want to look like God, start being kind. Start being kind to one another.

Start being kind to one another. And so Verse 9, and so when this was done others also which had diseases and the island came and were healed. I like that same thing happened. Paul prayed laid his hands on them, they were healed. As that simple. Praise God and you give Jesus all the praise for them. He prayed laid hands on him and in Jesus name and they were healed. Praise God. I love that. I love that. We need to just get back to the Simplicity of that, just pray lay your hands on Him and let them be healed.

The authority and the powers in His name is still just as powerful as always been. He's still a healer today. No sickness or disease can resist the power that's in His name. Praise God. Man, that's something to be excited about glory, glory, glory. That's something very excited about. "Oh! Man." "Oh! Man", that's something to be excited about. That's something to be excited about. I mean, sometimes you hang around to church so long you forget these things, when you forget you have a power in His name. Forget you have healing and made available to you. You forget that Christ Jesus is living in you. You forget that the Lord the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death. We forget these things but no, don't forget who you are. Don't forget who's in you greater is He does in you than He does in the world. Praise God.

We live in these things and walk in these things and Jesus is alive and well. So, when we jumped out in me was the fact that these were kind, generous and gracious people. God's kindness showed through people. God's showed his kindness through these people. I like something that Mother Theresa said, Mother Theresa said, "Be the expression of God's kindness. Be the living expression of God's kindness. Kindness in your faith, kindness in your eyes, kindness in you in your smile. Be the living expression of God's kindness." Notice, they had no little kindness toward them. Unusual. That mean, they were extremely kind, extremely kind.

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They were extremely kind. Show kindness to people, be generous with people. Be the living expression of God's kindness. Practice being kind at home. Practice being kind at home. How many marriages would be saved that people just practice being kind at home. I believe a lot of children will straighten up if parents were kind at home and if children were

kind toward their parent. Kindness will solve a whole lot of our issues if we just learn to practice kindness at home. Practice kindness at home.

Kevin Heating said, he says, “Whenever there is a human in need there was an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference. Whenever there’s a human in need there’s an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference.” Kindness here in the Greek is the word “philanthropia.” Philanthropia. And I’m sure you can hear philanthropy in that. Philanthropic. You can hear that philanthropia is a Greek word here for the kindness, and it means love for mankind, it means hospitality, it means acts of kindness, it means readiness to help. Taking thought of others means friendship, means benevolence. The word is actually a compound of philos which means love, and anthropos which means man. Philos love, anthropos man. You get love for man. That’s what this word means in the Greek. Philanthropia means love for man. It means love for man. And it’s the same word used to describe God’s loving kindness toward us. It is God so loved. God so loved the world. That’s the same words coming from that same word is describing God’s loving kindness toward us. You know the Bible says in the book of Psalms that his merciful kindness is great toward me. His merciful kindness is great toward me.

The book of Isaiah says it this way. Isaiah Chapter 54 says it this way, “The mountain shall depart, the hills shall be removed. Your kindness, God actually speaking, He says, my kindness will never depart from you. My covenant of peace will never be removed.” Man, that’s a prophetic utterance of Christ Jesus that God is saying that my kindness through Christ Jesus, I will forever be kind to you. He’s showing us the riches of his grace in His kindness toward us through Christ and His kindness would never depart from us. His covenant of peace will never be removed. That’s a covenant and God actually says, “This is to me as the waters were to nowhere as I swore that the waters would never ever again cover the Earth. I have sworn my kindness will never depart from you. My covenant of peace will never be removed.” And that was a foreshadowing of Christ Jesus.

Man, this is about the third time. I just feel like jumping straight across these people. I just feel like taking a random start, I just go on for it. That’s His covenant kindness. That’s

His covenant kindness. His covenant kindness toward us. You know, sometimes, God does so many wonderful things for me and when I recognize a special gift, I said, "Lord, that was really kind of you. So kind of you Sir. Thank you so much that's so kind of you. So kind of you." Begin to recognize his kindness. God is extremely kind. In fact, God is so kind. The Bible says that He is kind even to the evil and the unthankful so kind is. That's how benevolent His heart is. He is kind even to the evil and the unthankful. He is that kind. See, kindness changes hearts and so God is not after destroying people, God is after changing hearts. He wants them to taste His kindness. He wants people to see that He is good. He wants people to see that He is loving and so that's why he is kind to the evil and to the unthankful because God is interested in changing their heart. You change people through kindness. You want to change a life try being kind. You change people through kindness. Praise God.

I like something Albert Schweitzer said, he says, "Do something for somebody every day which you do not get paid. Do something for someone every day for which you do not get paid."

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Be the living expression of God's kindness. Generosity comes from the heart and it permeates our lives. I like something that Sasha Ditcher said, she said, "Today, give yourself permission to be outrageously kind, irrationally warm, improbably generous, I promise it will be a blessed." I like that. "Give yourself permission to be outrageously kind, irrationally warm, improbably generous. I promise it will be a blessed. Praise God, praise God.

I'm going stop right there and I just wanted to share God's kindness as we see it even in reference to healing. It was God's kindness to heal these kind people. These people showed themselves kind first and God reciprocated His kindness back into their lives. Kindness is even healing. Kindness is even healing. God heals us because of his merciful kindness because of his merciful kindness. He is incredibly kind. He is graciously kind. And you know, the older you become, the older you become you become less impressed by how smart someone is and

you become more impressed by how kind they are. That matters more as you age, as you get older and older kindness becomes more prevalent than smartness. Some people are very smart, but they can be very cruel. And so, as you get older and older, you're not as impressed by how smart someone is, you are more impressed by how kind someone is. Kindness, kindness, kind. God is incredibly kind to us and we have the opportunity to be the human expression of God's kindness in the Earth. Praise God.

I had so much more to share here. Got at least two more pages of notes I wanted to share tonight, but I'm going to be kind to let you go. I have some good stuff. I have some really good stuff. I want to share but I'm going to be kind, going to be kind to let you go. Just a simple message, just a simple message. The gospel is so simple. The Gospel is so simple, be kind to one another as God has been kind to you. As God has been kind to you, be kind to one another. Love one another that's what all Jesus to say and love one another as I loved you. Simple message. It's a very simple message, love one another, be kind, be kind, love one another, be generous with one another because pitiable to one take care of one another. Love one another. That's the whole essence. That's the whole message of the Gospel. Praise God. God is incredibly kind to us. He is merciful. I say this every day, his merciful kindness is great toward me. His merciful kindness is great toward me and we have the opportunity to share that kindness with others. The kindness that we receive from God himself we share it with others. Praise God.

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