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Today, I heard someone say that Jesus could not heal some people, and my theological Red Alert Antenna shot up. What did he just say? The idea that Jesus could not heal, of itself, is patently false. Actually, I think he meant that there were people who did not want to be healed. A distinct difference.

At no time in the bible did Jesus ever attempt to heal someone and could not perform the task. "I'm sorry, I tried, but for some reason, I could not heal you today...maybe tomorrow."

If Jesus is God in the flesh, would that even make sense? Absolutely not. "I did not heal some of them because of their unwillingness and unbelief," is quite different from, "I tried to heal them, but I could not accomplish the task; I failed." If God wants to heal you, he will not fail for any reason—period. End of story.

On the other hand, there was a situation where Jesus wanted to heal people and they were not willing.

In Mark 6:5-6, Jesus was rejected by the people of Nazareth and lamented their shocking lack of faith and belief. "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, among his relatives and his own house." (see also Matthew 13:57, Luke 4:24, John 4:44). Although the text does say that he did heal a few people.

Like in the Old Testament, there were times when God wanted to do more for the Israelite people, but they were not cooperative (2 Chron 7:14).

Jesus does not lack power. He does not lack anything required to heal people. But God is a gentleman, and will not force anyone to receive what he has to offer. If you do not believe he can heal, or are not interested, then fine; go your own way.

God and Jesus want people to come to them out of need and faith and love. God does not force himself on people, and does not perform simple miracles to gain your love and faith. While he has done great miracles through his servants, they were not done to coerce or trick people into believing.

Healing was not about Jesus walking through the country, healing every single person of every single problem—that would have required no act faith from the people. Instead, healing seems to be more like a partnership or a dance, where he leads and we follow, and our faith works within the process. In some instances, people came to Jesus with great faith, believing he could accomplish the task—and he did. On other occasions, the faith of friends (lowering the man through the roof) inspired the healing. God had a targeted plan for the Messiah's ministry—certain people would be healed at certain times, but not everyone. Healing alone was not his mission, but it was a powerful sign of who he was and what he was about. A sort of "take notice" event – something special is happening over here. Pay attention.

Finally, Jesus described himself as Living Water (John 4:14, 7:28, Jeremiah 2:13), a source of spiritual renewal and fulfillment, and in a sense, healing. But like all water, it is the responsibility of the thirsty to partake, and enjoy and share in the benefits. s

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