

HEALING IN
THE MINISTRY OF JESUS –
AN EXAMINATION OF
THE MINISTRY PRACTICES
OF JESUS
AS RECORDED IN
THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

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ABSTRACT

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MINISTRY OF JESUS

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Miraculous physical healing has experienced some resurgence within the last 20-30 years in Christendom. Aided by the vehicle of the electronic mass media with its many images of spontaneous and miraculous healing, modern Caribbean Christians have raised their expectations in this regard and the results have been both horrendous and thrilling. Much of the presentation of healing in congregations today, emerge from an understanding and interpretation of the miracles of Jesus in the synoptic gospels. Taking their cue from this, Pentecostal and mainline churches have preached a ministry that has sought to emulate the healing ministry of Jesus. Such practices have offered pastoral challenges both in respect to the expectations of many while having to stand alongside those for whom the miracle has been an absent and fleeting dream.

The thesis conducts an examination of healing in the world of Jesus as it attempts to locate Jesus as a healer among healers. In chapter four, several miracle stories are examined with a view to finding meaning then and meaning for today. The thesis contends that healing can be defined as the restoration of the broken created order to one of wholesomeness and harmony and justice.

The church today is called to practice a ministry of healing akin to the ministry of Jesus. It must be a ministry focus on the marginalized, the voiceless and resourceless in the society. The church dares not be satisfied merely with performing wonderful, physical miracles, but must seek to make whole the lives and circumstances of the excluded, the least and the left out, while engaging the powers that be to be more empowering and compassionate in their own response to the reality of human suffering

Keywords: Healing; Kingdom of God; Confrontation; Compassion; Community; Twelftree; Pilch; Meier.