

## Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

### (9) Teaching and Healing (pages 139-160)

#### Summary:

In the work of the gospel, teaching and healing should never be separated. The wholeness of human beings requires wholeness of ministry.

#### Thoughts:

On page 144 Ellen White says that the object of medical missionary work is to point people to the Man of Calvary. We are to encourage the sick and the suffering to look to Jesus and live. But this was written at a time when American culture was truly Christian. How is it different today?

On page 147 (see below) Ellen White notes that as institutions get bigger and bigger, the employees tend to excuse themselves from serious contact with the world and become self-absorbed. If she were alive today would she say that Loma Linda University (or any other Adventist institution is too big in the context of today's world? Or are things different today than in her day? Big doesn't necessarily mean detached from personal effort or self-absorbed, but it does require institution wide effort and attention. In today's world large institutions can have a large impact on communities and the wider culture. All other things being equal, it is easier to be faithful when you are small, but a large and faithful institution can accomplish great things in the world. But where institutions become a substitute for personal effort, they may do more harm than good.

Although teaching and healing are to be combined, Christ's method is not to hammer people with teachings they are not ready to listen to. Instead, He first demonstrated that He desired their good and won their confidence by ministering to their needs. Then he invited them to follow Him. (143)

In the work of teaching and healing personal effort is more powerful than corporate projects. Kindness, courtesy and unselfishness are tools the Holy Spirit uses to transform lives (143-144, 156-159)

With our emphasis on public evangelism and television ministries, have we become more of a talking church (teaching) than a doing church (healing)? Jesus always combined the doing and the preaching type of ministry. What does this chapter imply about doing television or mass book and tract distribution in the absence of personal effort for people in a community? When it comes to engaging the world for Christ, do we do it on our terms or are we willing to engage the world on its terms?

As we do missionary outreach, we need to think about the ethics of missionary outreach. Why do we do it? What is the long-term impact of short-term effort? Can we sometimes do more harm than good in the way we reach out?

While theory in itself may not be practical, there is nothing more practical than a good theory. The right theory leads to right practice. For example, we become like the God we worship.

#### Quotable Quotes:

“Is not faith in the Bible as effectually destroyed by the higher criticism and speculation

of today as it was by tradition and rabbinism in the days of Christ? Have not greed and ambition and love of pleasure as strong a hold on men's hearts now as they had then? In the professedly Christian world, even in the professed churches of Christ, how few are governed by Christian principles." (141)

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" (143)

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. . . . We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit." (143-144)

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul." (147)

"Educated workers who are consecrated to God can do service in a greater variety of ways and can accomplish more extensive work than can those who are uneducated. Their discipline of mind places them on vantage ground." (150)

"Men deficient in school education, lowly in social position, have, through the grace of Christ, sometimes been wonderfully successful in winning souls for Him. The secret of their success was their confidence in God." (151)

"It is of little use to try to reform others by attacking what we may regard as wrong habits. Such effort often results in more harm than good." (156)

"Of all people in the world, reformers should be the most unselfish, the most kind, the most courteous. . . . The worker who manifests a lack of courtesy, who shows impatience at the ignorance or waywardness of others, who speaks hastily or acts thoughtlessly, may close the door to hearts so that he can never reach them." (157)

"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command." (159)

### **Tweets of Healing:**

In the work of the gospel, teaching and healing are never to be separated. (141)

In the professedly Christian world, few are governed by Christian principles. (141)

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. (143)

If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. (143)

Many have no faith in God and have lost confidence in man. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. (145)

There is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. (147)

Truth that is not lived, that is not imparted, loses its life-giving power. (149)

None need wait until called to some distant field before beginning to help others. Doors of service are open everywhere. (152)

Of all people in the world, reformers should be the most unselfish, the most kind, the most courteous. (157)

Naturally we are self-centered and opinionated. (157)

Words of kindness are as welcome as the smile of angels. (158)

In our outreach, talking must be accompanied by doing or it will fall on deaf ears.

There is nothing more practical than a good theory.

We need to think more about the ethics of missionary outreach.