Responding to God

The concept of responsiveness in scripture is integral to a life of faith and obedience. Through examples of biblical figures, teachings on hearing and doing, and the role of the Holy Spirit, believers are encouraged to cultivate a responsive heart that listens to and acts upon God's voice.

The below space is given for you to record what you sense God is saying to you this morning through being together, praise and worship, and scripture....

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."
John 10:27

The Healing Power of Jesus

November 8, 2026
Acts 9:32-43

Introduction
What moved Jesus to respond the way He did to human need and suffering?

How have you experienced God's compassion and healing in your life?

Peter in Lydda (v32-35)

32As Peter traveled throughout the area, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. 33There he found a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. 34"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and put away your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up, 35and all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

- Peter is traveling and visiting the believers in different places.
- Peter comes across a man, paralyzed and bedridden for 8 years. He declares the man to be healed through Jesus… and he IS.
- This isn't the first time, Jesus has healed someone through Peter and his faith has grown through previous healings (Acts 3:1-10).
- When Jesus heals people, it leads to the spreading of the gospel.

Peter in Joppa (v36-43)

36In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated as Dorcas),e who was always occupied with works of kindness and charity. 37At that time, however, she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upper room. 38Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to urge him, "Come to us without delay." 39So Peter got up and went with them. On his arrival, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood around him, weeping and showing him the tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.40Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down and prayed, and

turning toward her body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41Peter took her by the hand and helped her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her to them alive.42This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43And Peter stayed for several days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

- While Peter was in Lydda, a women named Tabitha died in a nearby town. They sent two disciples to bring Peter.

- Tabitha left of legacy of faith, kindness and good works.

- Interestingly, Peter sent them all out of the room. ***Why do you think He did this?***

- In both healings, Peter speaks as though they are healed before there is any evidence of their healing.

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What Do We Really Believe About God? (v19-22)

God is Compassionate and Merciful

- See Exodus 34:6-7, 2 Cor 1:3-7, Lamentations 3:22-23

Has God's compassion diminished over the generations since scripture was recorded?

Do we (you) believe God's acts of compassionate physical healing and gospel witness were intended to "establish" the church and are now no longer needed?

God and Suffering

- Acts 9:16, Phil.1:29, Phil. 3:10

How does God demonstrate His compassion in our lives? If God doesn't physically heal someone or yourself, do you think of Him as less compassionate?

What if God's compassion was never intended to be demonstrated, at least primarily, through physical healing but in His desire to provide a way back in relationship to Himself?

How *And* Why Did Jesus Respond To Human Need and Suffering?

1. Jesus came to reconcile all things to Himself

- He saw a discontinuity between the way things were supposed to be and the way they actually were. (Colossians 1:19, Ephesians 1:9-10, Mark 1:14-15)
- This is what it meant for the kingdom of God to be "at hand", Jesus was reconciling people and situations to alignment with the rule and reign of God.
- Humanity, and all creation was not flourishing at God had intended it too, and Jesus "saw" this.

2. Jesus, as a result, was moved by compassion

- When Jesus encountered human need, he saw the "disordered" way things actually were (Matthew 9:35-38)
- People were, and are, in bondage to sin, and because of sin, some are under Satan's rule and reign.
- As image-bearers of God, this was not acceptable to Jesus. (See John 11:1-44, Mark 3:1-9, Mark 1:40-45)

3. Jesus responded to "Faith"

- Faith is intellectual and also a relational trust in God, and is what begins the process of "reconciling" hearts back to God.
- See Luke 7:1-9, Mark 2:1-12

4. Jesus "lived", during his earthly ministry, for God's glory to be manifested.

- He understood human need as the very place where God's glory and power could be displayed.
- He was surrendered to the will of God. (Mt. 26:39)