

## Thoughts on Ministry of Healing by Jon Paulien

### (1) Our Example (pages 17-28)

#### Summary:

Jesus came (among other things) to model what we can and should be like.  
Our mission is to continue the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus in today's world,  
the one that we experience.

#### Thoughts:

Ellen White opens that chapter by summarizing the entire human condition in a simple phrase, "man's necessity." (18) This singular word "necessity" includes within it all the ravages of disease and sin that Jesus came to undo. He came to provide humanity "health and peace and perfection of character."

Jesus' mission was to show the world what God (His "Father") was like. (19)

Our mission is to show the world what Jesus is like, so they can know what God is like.

Jesus "came not to destroy, but to save (19)." This tells us about the fundamental attitude of God toward the human race. God is not arbitrary, quick to punish, abusive, as some make Him out to be, rather God loves, seeks to save, and in caring concern desires to move us to the place that would be best for us.

Jesus lived a life of constant self-sacrifice, yet was not recognized or honored for it. (19)

On page 20 the author talks about using each work of healing to implant "divine principles" into the mind and soul. What divine principles? A list would have been helpful here. Perhaps there is a hint in what follows in this short paragraph. The healings were done to "incline the hearts of men to received the gospel of His grace." What "divine principles" do you think she had in mind here?

It is easier for humans beings to fall in love with their interpretations about the Bible (21) than to actually take the Bible seriously. In Jesus we have an interpreter who was in on the writings when they were written.

Christ humbled Himself in order to meet us where we are (22). Jesus kept it simple (23) and used familiar analogies from everyday life (23). He identified with their interests and happiness (24). He studied to reach out to both poor and rich (24). If Jesus "studied" how to meet people where they are, it must have been by observation. I suppose to some degree we need to become like the people we want to influence (students?). How far do you think Jesus took this? How far should we?

How far did Jesus go in His commitment to diversity? (25-26) She mentions the roughest, most unpromising, those under Satan's control, publicans, Samaritans. The one group she does not mention is the religious elite of Jesus' day. What are some contemporary equivalents of these outcast groups in Jesus' day?

At the close is the intriguing statement "Wherever hearts are open to receive the truth. . . He uses no parables." (28)

One outcome of the reading of this chapter was the sense that Ellen White was more principled than practical. She talked about "divine principles," for example, but did not spell them out. This suggests that she did not try to control how people carried out the principles in day to day situations, she allowed freedom to apply and adapt the principles to new situations as

they arise. Applying such an approach to her counsel keeps that counsel fresh and relevant.

**Quotable Quotes:**

“It was heaven to be in [Jesus] presence.” (18)

“During His ministry, Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy, but to save.” (19) “The Saviour made each work of healing an occasion for implanting divine principles in the mind and soul.” (20)

“Often that which men had taught and written about the Scripture was put in place of the Scripture itself.” (21)

“He was the Majesty of heaven, but He humbled Himself to take our nature, that He might meet men where they were.” (22)

“While He ministered to the poor, Jesus studied also to find ways of reaching the rich.” (24)

“Christ recognized no distinction of nationality or rank or creed. . . . He made no difference between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies. . . . He passed by no human being as worthless. . . .” (25)