

AND HE DIED... WHY?

BY: BRAD CULLEN – JUNE 19, 2003

“HIS MALADY WAS SEVERE...”

A little footnote in the Old Testament about the reign of a king of Judah by the name of Asa. It ends with the simple proclamation that “his malady was severe and he died... because he trusted physicians instead of the Lord.”

We have been so conditioned to trust medical systems in our day that we don't consider trusting anything else. We don't even consider that the cause of much of our physical pain and suffering could be what we've considered to be the cure.

It is interesting that in an anecdote in the New Testament about a woman's faith – the writer chose to say that she had suffered much at the hands of physicians and spent all of her money on them, but had only gotten worse.

I have been accused of not believing in doctors. That is not true as I will share in a moment, but what I have a real problem with is unquestioned belief in doctors. I have told a story many times and it bears repeating here.

For several years I was invited to speak each semester at a Humanities class at a well-known Christian University on the West Coast. The professor had named this particular class... “Faith, Living and Learning.”

The setting was always the same on the occasions of my visits. Enough folding chairs formed into a center-facing circle to accommodate that semester's entire class... usually numbering from forty to fifty students.

Each semester, the professor, my close friend of over twenty-five years, would introduce me as somebody that taught and emphasized faith and prayer... and that this particular session would be a completely open discussion format.

No sooner was I introduced when a young lady asked, “Why should I listen to anything you have to say about prayer? I mean, what do you know about praying that I don't know?” She said these words in such a way that there was no doubt in my mind that she was considerably hostile. She looked at me intently while awaiting my response.

It was several seconds before I responded. Finally I said something to the effect, “I suppose the big difference between how I pray and how you pray -- and why you might consider listening to what I have to say on the subject... is that when I pray I always get results. Because I never pray for anything until I am sure that it is God's will... and once I start praying I don't stop praying until what I am praying for manifests on the physical plane.”

In the next few minutes, rather dramatic healings took place in three students.

The same girl that had asked the question that started the discussion became visibly more hostile. Her face turned noticeably red and she finally burst out... “You don't even believe in doctors! I think you are disgusting.”

I responded, “that's not true...” as I pointed to the three students seated in widely separated chairs around the room that had just experienced healing, and asked each in turn – “but tell the rest of the group, how much good did going to the doctor do for you?”

The resulting interchange seemed to make the girl even more hostile and agitated. When the class was over for that morning several of the students came up to me and made private comments as is common in that kind of a setting. I noticed the girl with the hostility “stomping” out the door with her agitation fully intact.

After the class was dismissed the professor and I went out for breakfast to a nearby restaurant. He mentioned that the girl was one of the daughters of the university president. I expressed my concern about his job... but he assured me that he had tenure and that the president was well aware of what I said and did during my visits and basically approved. In fact, he had asked the professor if he thought I would accept an invitation to speak at “chapel.” The point being that the university was quite careful about whom they selected for such an appearance.

A few days later, I received a call from the professor. He reminded me of the incident with the president's daughter and told me that she had just left his office... he told me that he thought I would be interested in what she had to say. She had dropped by to ask him to apologize to me for her for being so disruptive during my visit. He told me that he assured her that kind of thing always happened when I visited... and besides it contributed greatly to the discussion rather than was a distraction. She told him that she had intended to tell him, the morning of my visit that their family physician had

diagnosed her as having mononucleosis and recommended that she drop out of school for the remainder of the school year. She had been so upset that she left without telling him.

She told him that she went home and locked the door to her bedroom and practically yelled at God, that if he answered the prayers of "that nasty man" (me) why couldn't she be healed! She told the professor that she had spent quite a long time on her knees... and then realized that she had been healed! She told him that she never felt better and was going to remain in school... and once again asked him to apologize to me. He again told her that it wasn't necessary, but obtained her permission to tell me about her experience... hence the phone call.

It always excites me to be used by God for healing... but it is even more exciting when people get motivated (even if by anger at me) to go to God and make their own demands.

I am currently praying for a man near Houston, Texas who has some rather severe physical problems... including cancer. I am writing this as an encouragement to him because I know that it is God's will that he be healed... and the point is that I know if he gets serious with our one and only perfect Daddy... and points out to Him that if he answers the prayers of "a nasty man like me" ...why can't he heal him! The job will get done. But then, maybe he has already experienced his healing – and this is for you... or someone you know. Pass it on.

If anyone would like to receive the specific Scriptural basis for praying the way I pray... please write to me. Give me the specifics of your problem and let's get busy looking together toward the Great Physician for healing...

By the way... I really do believe God can use doctors. He once even used the jawbone of an ass... God can use anything or anybody. He even uses me! And if you really knew me, you would know, that's ridiculous! It's just that sometimes doctors actually impede and/or prolong the healing process... but that's just one man's opinion... a nasty man at that. You probably ought to get a doctor's advice on the matter.

Let's end our time together with the reminder that Jesus said anyone that truly believes in him will perform the very same miracles that he performed. If you have to get irritated with me to get to the place of being able to do what Jesus said ANYONE that believes in him can do... I am only too happy to serve as the catalyst. Please remember, I didn't say that anyone can do it, JESUS SAID IT ! Are you an "anyone?"

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