

PEACE WITH GOD

Isaiah 57:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

There was a time when religion was the healthy and natural state of man's soul. Whatever may be said about the meaning of this strange passage in Isaiah - it tells us about the Garden of Eden. God walking in that garden. And man had changed. The only possible thing that he had left open was penitence. It is this that we discover a system for the cure of his nature which had become diseased. And of course, the Gospel of Christ says I will heal him. It is a healing process, that brings a man from this pollution back to peace.

Now you are familiar with (the sea) and in this passage we have the prophet using the (ocean) as an illustration and an example to point out a great truth. He said the wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest. These waters cast up mire and dirt. This is a very vivid description, of the ocean - in it's restless waves constantly churning up that which is beneath the surface. The wicked, he said, are like this. The trouble sea. There is (no) peace for them.

But our (text) states that there is peace to him that is far off and peace to him that is near.

Note the (restlessness of the sea). This is descriptive of what goes on in a man's heart. (Why?) Because he is not at rest. Rest is a great want and is the craving of our nature. We are here in this world tossing about in a dark dream of existence. Never satisfied with ourselves and venting our dissatisfaction on the circumstances on which God has placed us.

We want something new - and a satisfying toy never comes. That is a history of a life of excitement. A life of earnestness. It is like a merchant man speculating. There are many disappointments attached to it. Every life, there is weariness.

Men want peace and the world has said -- Peace, Peace. And they find that there is no peace.

And (so it is) and it comes to pass as you go through your childhood and then you go through manhood or womanhood, then you go through old age. And you are struggling and hoping and disappointing. It ever seems so near to peace and you never quite get ahold of it. The one chance to rest and to find peace. It only seems that the silent (grave) has something for the restlessness which is in man.

During the threat in (World War I) - men were searching for peace. Mark Twain had a classic remedy for the German submarine. He said it is no problem at all. Mr. Clemmons suggested just ^{heat} ~~keep~~ the ocean to the boiling point - then when the subs come up, you can pop them off one at a time. When the inevitable question was asked, how do you heat the ocean to the boiling point. He replied, I deal only in broad generalities. You work out the details.

Men have been restless hunting for peace, peace - when there is no peace. And trying to solve this thing between men and wars. William Barkley paraphrased the seventh Beatitude - oh the bliss of those who produce right relationships between man and man. They are doing a god-like work. The force is placed on the honored word peace. 11

The Jewish Rabbi held that the highest task a man can perform is the establishing of right relationships between men. Then, as now, people are the storm centers and are restless.

We have even restless people in churches. One man, a member of the church, once vowed as long as I am a member of this church there will never be anything unanimous. On the other hand, there are people who have healing balm - they do god-like work. They are what the Bible calls peace makers.

There are two ways of seeking peace. *World's offer & The Gospel offer -* In the human heart and these are somewhat in opposition - one with the other. Our text says there is no peace, saith my God to the wicked.

And there is besides that, Christ's promise - peace, peace, to him that is far off and to him that is near.

Therefore you have the world's offer of peace - and you have the Gospel offer.

The world proposes to fulfill the promise by gratifying nature.

The Gospel proposes to fulfill it's promise by expelling nature.

The world says gratify the desires that burn within you. So long as it lasts. And you will find rest and peace will come when you satisfy every inclination of your heart. If only there were no judgment - if only there were no such thing as conscience. The man who denies himself nothing, would be the man who gets

rest from himself. The world principle is - let us eat and drink - for tomorrow we die.

The Gospel principle is not this peace at all - but another. The world's peace is the indulgence of the heart. Let nature have her way. But Christ's peace is the healing of a disordered heart. It consists of placing the whole life under the discipline of the cross and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Now we are sick unto death. Unregenerated. And we are here in this world to be cured.

So these are our only two hopes - of rest and peace. World peace seems to add fuel to the fever. And Christ's peace comes to cure it.

There is not a person tonight who is not resting his faith or his expectations on one of these promises or the other. He has emersed himself into the world or he is looking to Christ for that peace. Adam hid himself among the trees in the garden of the world, in the enjoyment and hope that he would find a way of rest. And a way of peace. But it was not to be found.

Biblical peace is not found this way. Primitive people used to send their magicians up into trees with buckets of water. Their function was to pray wildly and long - and in between cries, they tipped their buckets to spill a little water down to prime the pumps of Heaven, and make it rain. But rain doesn't come that way and neither does peace. We have had our magicians at Potsdam in London, in Paris, in the United Nations. But peace doesn't come this way. Rain comes up from the earth in drops drawn from the sun. Before they descend to the earth as rain - and so does peace. Peace is a matter that is never external. And peace

is something on the inside or it isn't. It must become an attitude before it becomes an act.

One day a man approached the emperor and he cried, Ave emperor. And that was an act of peace - a sign of peace. But the inner attitude is not peace. And the next act was a knife in the back of Julius Caesar. The act of peace for Japan was to keep her representatives dealing with Cordell Hull in Washington. But there was no peace - in spite of those acts of peace, the attitude was to destroy Pearl Harbor.

So we have this choice here. It is either peace according to the world or peace according to the Gospel. If you read some of the early minutes of some of the churches - you wonder how they escaped a murderer. One or two perhaps, during their meetings.

Peace is not something that I agree to keep. It is a way of life, as a result of something that I have been given - a spiritual operation. It is something that happens to you that touches your life. Jesus never promised external conditions of peace except as the peace that comes from the people of God up. It is stupid for us to think that war can produce peace. The only way war can produce peace is by surrender.

It is true - blessed are the makers of peace and happy are those who produce peace. But Jesus said, peace I leave with thee - my peace I give unto thee, not like the world giveth - give I unto thee. But it is in accord with the mind of Jesus, and the Gospel - that peace comes to a believer's surrender of the person.

Therefore, our expectations of peace will (not) come from the world - but our peace will come from the Gospel. Isaiah suggests in the 48th chapter and the 18th verse, the 66th chapter and the 12th verse - I will extend peace to her like a river. This is an expression and suggestion that peace will come. We know about the merky turbulent sea, the roaring billows. There is no real peace in that sort of surrounding.

How we need this peace like a river today. Coulthard, the Australian explorer, perished for want of water on one of the great deserts of that land. Beside his emaciated body, was found a note written with a shaking hand. ^{1/}"The last thing I remember is pulling the saddle off my horse and letting him go. My tongue is sticking to my mouth. I know it is the last time that I will express my feelings. Lost, for want of water. My eyes are dizzy. My tongue burns. I can say no more. God help me." ^{1/}

Thank God, there is a stream of peace bringing water for thirsty souls of men. I heard the voice of Jesus say, behold, I freely give. The living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live. I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream. My thirst was quenched, my soul revived - and now I live in him.

Let us now note the struggle of a soul towards peace. I believe that every earnest soul makes an honest struggle towards peace. And there are two or three things that we must give attention too. First of all, there is pride. Second, reconciliation. And Third, obedience.

This is a first struggle of a man towards peace. He must tread upon human pride. One of the sources or reasons for human restlessness is here. This is why men pass through the world fretful and dissatisfied with their lot in life. They have a high estimate of self. They find that neither God nor man treats them as they think that they deserve.

And when a man comes close to the close of his existence - he begins to feel as though he has not had justice done him. He is not been rightly valued. He has not been understood. He is not where he ought to be. And he bears the mark of a disappointed man.

It is the (adoration of self) that makes men miserable. It is the strange greediness that is within a man, that causes him to feel this way.

The first thing that the Gospel does is to crush that spirit of self-esteem. At the foot of the cross, there is no room for pride. Merit is impossible before God. We are not to claim our reward. We are here to contribute to life. And once we get the truth in our hearts that we are nothing, it wounds our pride. Has this world neglected you, my Christian friend. Has it not appreciated you - honored you - not given you the position which you thought you were entitled.

There are lots of people because of pride have pushed themselves into places that they have no business being in. My friend, if you are in sin - what right have you to demand that it should give you anything. You must first learn how much you deserve. And it will turn out that you deserve nothing and have received little. Now that conviction opens a man before Christ. That is one of the first steps toward peace.

[France and England] were at war once - a French vessel had gone off on a long whaling voyage. It came back, and the crew was short of water - and being near an English port, they wanted to get water, but they were afraid that they would be taken prisoners if they went into that port. Some people in the port saw their signal of distress and sent word that they need not be afraid. That the war was over - and peace had been declared. But they couldn't make the sailors believe it and they wouldn't dare go into port although they were out of water. At last, they made up their minds that they had better go in and surrender their cargo and their lives to their enemies - rather than perish at sea, without water. And when they got in - they found out that what they had been told was true - that peace had been declared. There are a great many people that don't believe the good tidings that peace was made by Jesus Christ. Between God and man - that it is true.

And the first step was for those men to lose their pride - and surrender if necessary. But they discovered that it was blessed peace and rest.

✓ II. Reconciliation.

To attain peace, there must be the spirit of reconciliation. If there were nothing else to make men wretched, uncertainty, respecting their future destiny would be enough. We are going down into eternity. And it's waves are rising to engulf us everyday as we get nearer. Hundreds are doing it every hour. Timid women, strong men, quietly watching their own decay - facing death. And there is no peace, and there is no rest in the prospect of eternity. It is one thing to face death in this way - and another, to meet it peacefully and trustingly.

Reconciliation then is the answer. Peace is enjoyed by those who have been in covenant with God. As it were, during all their lifetime. And peace is attainable by those who have received his forgiveness. This distinction is made in our text - peace to him that is far off. Peace to him that is near.

Let us look at these two parts in our text.

First, peace to him that is near. There is a peace for those who have remained through life, near to God. Such men have been spoken of in the New Testament.

(Ninety and nine) just persons who need no repentance and such a one seems represented to us under the character of the elder son, in the parable. He had not wandered from his home to seek his fortune in the world. There are some in the world who have been so quiet, so regular, so steady, that they are partially unconscious of the vastness of the work of God that he had been doing in their souls. There are those who have come to us through mature religious families. Who have been in the atmosphere of the faith and they have been instructed in the love of God.

There are those who have had the peace near them from childhood - in a very different thing than being in luxury and attending the return of the prodigal son.

The deepest peace, the consciousness of peacefulness is expressed in what the father said. Son, thou art ever with me and all that I have is thine. But he did not know this until he was old. We think this peace a dull thing. We look down upon men and women - and smile at their simplicity. There are those who despise the monotony of their existence. Here is a man or a woman who lives a simple life - quietly, day by day - but within their hearts there is that peace. Their minds have been enlarged by eating at the tree of knowledge. But there are men who look

upon them with contempt and pity. But brethren, this is God's best peace - enjoyed by them that are nearest. Let us remember that this pure heartedness is the kind of peace that comes from Heaven.

It is better than a religious rapture - or shall I describe it like a fire rocket that streams across the black sky making everything brilliant for a moment and forcing men to look at it. But the peace of him that has lived near to God is like the quiet steady light-house lamp. Startling none - very easily mistaken for a common light. But never quenched - but always sending its rays across the billows to warn the ships of the sandbars. Now that is the kind of peace enjoyed by him that is near.

Like D. L. Moody, said, when I was a boy - I tried to catch my shadow. I don't know if you were ever so foolish - but I remember running after it and trying to get ahead of it. I could never see why the shadow always kept ahead of me. Once I happened to be racing with my face to the sun, and I looked over my shoulder and saw my shadow behind me, and it kept behind me all the way. It is the same way with righteous - peace and joy will go with you while you go with your face toward him. For those who turn their backs on the sun are in darkness all the time. Turn to the light of God and the reflection will flash in your heart.

The second thing about reconciliation is that peace will be to him that is afar off. This is another class of men to whom peace is possible. We understand those who have lived for a time in guilt from God. Peace is not exclusive. Just for the consistent men - but it belongs under the Gospel to guilty men. Those who have sinned. And those who will come in penitence. There is more joy among the angels in Heaven, over one sinner who repented - than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance. It almost seems as if the joy of returning to God had something in it more rich than the peace which belonged to consistent obedience. It is just

the feast of the fatted calf with the robe and the ring, and the dancing. This ~~disconcerted the elder brother~~. Men who have sinned much - is it not so. Is there not such a thing as loving much because much has been forgiven.

And after all, for most of us, this is the only Gospel. There may be one person here and there who has lived near to God from childhood. But if there is only peace for him - then we have no peace for the mass of people. God knows we have lived far enough from God at some period or other in our lives. Things that will not bear speaking of. It is well not to think about it. That belong to the history of our passed lives. We want a Gospel for the guilty - peace for him that is near that we can understand. But the words, peace to him that is afar off, this speaks of the mercy of the Scriptures as recorded in the human life.

Bible men were not heroes of romance - they were men of real life. And the details of that life are given here and sometimes they were very guilty. Transgressions - they were troubled. Turning their backs on God and struggling in the thick darkness - hunting for peace. It is not the having been far off that makes peace possible.

It is not sin - no, not the darkness. But being justified by faith - we have peace with God. And indecision keeps a man away from Christ and prevents that peace.

During the days of the Civil War when many men were deserting the Southern flag, Secretary Staunton sent out a notice from the War Department. That no more refugees should be taken into the Union Army. A Southern soldier who had not seen that order came into the Union line and they read it to him. He didn't know what to do. If he went back to the Southern Army he would be shot as a deserter. And the Northern Army wouldn't have him. So he went into the woods and stayed there - living on roots and whatever else he could find, until finally he was starving. One day he saw an

officer riding by - and he rushed out of the woods and caught the horse by the bridle and he said he would kill the officer if he didn't help him. The officer asked him what the trouble was. He told him. But haven't you heard the news, said the officer. No, what news. The war is over - Lee has surrendered and peace has been declared. Go to the nearest town and get all the food you want. The man waved his hat and went off as fast as he could.

I want to say that peace has been declared between God and man. Be reconciled to God - the blood is on the mercy seat. The vilest sinner can be saved for time and eternity.

✓ III. Now the third step towards peace is (active obedience.)

There is a mistake that men make respecting religious unhappiness. That it arises only from the fear of punishment. And they suppose that if they could but convince a man of his personal safety before God, if he could but know that his salvation was secure, that strightway all of his religious uneasiness would be calm. And so men sit down to look into themselves as if the one great question they had to answer were this -- am I saved or not? But it is not so. It is not the dread of Hell that makes men miserable. That is only part of human restlessness. There is an eternity law that man cannot be happy accept in Christ.

There is an eternal law that man cannot be happy accept he keep God's commandments. Make a man sure of Heaven and leave him with a soul not reduced to harmony.

The conviction that life is gliding away and nothing done - there is an uneasy knowing or self reproach, that comes from duties left unfulfilled. What is

misery. It is the boundless law of duty written on the heart. And it is self reproach if not obeyed.

Do you want the picture of a restless heart. Infinite duty, infinite transgression and woe - that is the road of man.

Now if you ask what is the remedy provided by God to heal this restlessness. God's remedy, my dear brother, is to write his law by the Spirit upon the heart, so that we love Christ. And then we love what Christ commands. In keeping his commandments, there is great reward. God has linked these two together and no man can separate them. Obedience and peace.

That is the reason why if you start out in your early years in obedience, that in your riper years, there is great joy. It seems that a (soldier or a sailor) generally make a happy Christian for this same reason. They transfer to God's serve the habit of unquestioning ready obedience which was taught them in their professions. And there is no spectulating about difficulties.

So often, in men who are trained to think - rather than to act, it saddens their life. Their's is a life of action and what is peace but this. "If a man love me, he will keep my commandments." And I will manifest myself to him.

Now if we have placed this in the direction of a man's faith and a man questions his salvation - he may ask that question until he is on the verge of insanity. And never get to the answer. But two things - one is God must be seen through the cross of Christ - there is no mistake about it. He means that he is going to reconcile you. The second thing is, that the duty that lies immediately before him, he anxiously and earnestly seeks to do. And that will

bring him peace because it is certain pardon. And God writes it on his heart.

Now remember these three things. There is the step of humility which accepts the righteousness of Christ. There is second, the step of God's reconciliation. And third, there is the activity of obedience to do God's will which will produce peace. Hence peace does not wait on God - it waits on us. Paul says the whole creation waits on the sons of God to grow up and to act like him. If this sounds Orthodox - then you are not hearing me. Because if God waits on us - it is an incredible, frightening thing, but it is the Biblical concept of peace as I see it.

What if God loved us so much that he let us beat ourselves to death. Rather than to let us be less than people. Everything that the Bible demands makes men responsible for their obedience and actions. Paul says the whole creation stands on its tiptoes to see the wonderful sight of the Son of God - as they come into their own.

Peace then is in our hands vividly.

Now let us think for just a moment for the reason why peace is not found. Why is it that we have guilty hearts and we can't find peace. It is because of our own restlessness. Or is it because of some other transgression like the troubled sea - the wicked cannot rest. That within the soul there is cast up the mire and the dirt from beneath that has been sunk in the water for years.

I suggest a couple of things.

✓ 1. Our own natural restlessness. I think this is one reason we cannot find rest. God made the spirit of man like the ocean. In it's vastness. Here is

the ocean, ten miles deep. The Atlantic depth, goes down even beyond sound - and the billows that roll their wild tumult above have 10 miles of water beneath. To heave them up. Now a pond may be without a ripple. As to the troubled sea, just because it is vast, it cannot rest. And so it is with the soul of man. Man's soul is such that it is miserable. You take the meanest and the weakest man in the congregation and there is a spirit which has a capacity in it for Heaven and for Hell. Rest - my dear brother, shall we talk of a thing like that resting. Why man's soul rocks and billows itself with eternity beneath it. What makes human suffering and all of this is just an indication.

When God puts you in possession of yourself and knows a self immortal - he made you master of a tremendous heritage, as well as a tremendous whoe.

Not this impossibility directs - comes from the soul's power of being acted upon by Heavenly influences. And by the earth.

They tell us that the sea rests not, because of the attraction of the Heavenly bodies. Which keep it in an endless ebb and flow. Drawn toward the earth and drawn toward the sky. And obeying neither impulse solely. It cannot rest.

Do we not know this in our own bosom. There is a tide of feeling which ebbs alternately to the Heaven and to the Earth. The flesh lusted against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh.

We are conscious of this high instinct that tells us that we are being dragged down to the earth. And so long as this happens, is rest possible. One force must overcome the other, before that can take place. The love of God must master the world's affection. Like the troubled sea when it cannot rest.

Outward circumstances - there are winds that sweep along the ocean's surface. And fret it into agitation - a small gust rises a single wave on the surface of the water, and before that wave has passed, for over a thousand miles it has become a swell which may swamp a ship. Something like this in a man makes him restless. His own inborn passions. Small trials of temper which make up much of the weariness of life, the reverses of fortune, and all that men call annoyances and sorrows.

How could man have been otherwise than as he is.

During his earlier years, his education, his neglect - he cannot get peace from these circumstances. Place him where, you will he carries this unquieted heart along with him. Can you keep the ocean from the wind. Can you bid the gusts and the hurricane to be still. And not play their wild games on the face of the water. Can you save man from circumstances as they are placed here. Man is made restless and miserable by the circumstances. The ocean is plowed by billows.

Unless a man stands on the rock of the ages - then he is restless and he cannot find peace.

In the development of this country, in the pioneers that went West, every man carried his own weapon - he became a law unto himself. He admitted that it was often too far to get to the Marshall. So men took the law into their own hands and finally the Federal Marshall, the Sherriff, and the Pölice were the men who were supposed to carry the guns. The citizens then had to submit to the authority of the higher power.

Now this has been the case through the years. And God must work his cause through his people. And of course this is one of the reasons why we do not have peace today in the work. Communism today is growing and it is one of the threats

to world peace today. And it teaches that it will come about by revolution and by revolt. The plan is not for them to take over by armies, rockets, and missiles and planes - but they have organized to take over.

The Russians have a word for ^{Revolution} education - and it is that which was made in reference to a key log. They built present homes out of logs and out of the center of the floor - there is a long log that sticks out at the end. And it was called a key log and when they take a house down, they do it very quickly and they save the logs. They don't have to take the logs down one by one off the top - they hitch an ox or a tractor to this key log and they jerk it back and forth. Finally the whole thing falls apart. That word that the Russians use to describe a key log also is the word they use for shaking to pieces from underneath. Now this their program - this is to bring about revolution and they are able to collapse the whole system of government in this way. And they must wait until the time is right.

✓ 2. The (power of memory) is also a reason why we cannot find peace. The power of memory - to recall to the past with remorseful association.

As the prophet said the water cast out mire and dirt. It is the bringing to life again what has been buried. You may see the surges wear and fret away the basement or the shoreline against which they bash themselves. Into the depth and then disappear and is carried away by the tide as if it were retiring.

For a thousand miles off there will be foam, sea foam, and fragments may have rolled for many a long month in that ocean. They may have been engulfed and unseen. They are still there ready to appear then at the appointed moment.

We know this is true - for if you have ever wandered on some distant beach you start rambling along - you will see planks that have come ashore from some vessel.

Now something fearful like this is the constitution of our souls deeds that we have done and thought that they were covered over in the ocean. But we expect that they will appear no more. A thing once lodged in memory is never lost. It may seek the time for long years in ocean depths. Have we never known those moments of existence when we seem endowed with startling power to recall all of these. Perhaps by night while alone or while the music was playing. Or while we were in conversation. The memories were as fresh as yesterday. And so how much we are like the ocean. He says the mire from the dirt - like misery and remorse. Torment can come up with the stormy wind. Guilt - things not taken care of - that exist between peace and cure.

The prophet said - peace, peace. And I will heal him. Peace and cure must go together. There is no peace where there is no cure.

Now the question is this - if you have peace, what is your peace worth.

There was a time when Herod's spirit was at rest. One man prevented his enjoying life and Herod removed that man and then things seemed to be calm and he thought that it was all settled. But then later, he heard about the Saviour preaching and it reminded him of John the Baptist, in his conscience and his guiltiness. He had a little silence, a little summer day's calm - and then the ocean cast up again it's mire and it's dirt.

The Law in this world is that sin and sorrow shall be joined together. God has an eternity before him and he says there is no peace, saith God to the wicked.

I have walked along the beach in Nags Head, N. C. and you know that beach goes along like a sandbar. And they have had some terrific hurricanes, that have hit. I remember reading Dr. Frank Graham, who used to be at Chapel Hill for many years, telling about an experience he had during a hurricane. And he left his cottage and walked across to one on higher ground and he found a cook in the kitchen. It was early toward sunrise. He said that gave him assurance because that woman had faith that the world was going to last at least until day break. So he went into the kitchen there and he spoke to her. And he said it seemed that the ocean was just outside her window. And that the cottage may be going in a little bit. And he mentioned about the waves coming up. And she said Mr. Graham, it ain't them little 3 feet ocean outside my kitchen window that is bothering me. It's those 3,000 miles out there of ocean leaning up against those 3 feet waves that's on my mind. Now if that ocean had leaned just a little more, then I wouldn't be left.

And as we look at our own situation and look at the world today - the problems and the perils, and the things that destroy our peace -- we can also think about the miles and miles of things that lean up against us.

Brethren each of us know what has been our own past. And we know that mire and dirt come up from these depths. But there is one transforming thought tonight - we can be healed and be at peace. But if the heart is not cured of it's evil - your peace is not worthwhile.

There is a peace which passeth all understanding. For those who have kept their garments undefiled. Remember, they have made them white in the blood of the lamb. It is well to trust in the cross of Christ for pardon. Every man wants to be at peace with God. You know what it means to be a Christian. And the price

that has to be paid to get this illusive thing called peace - which we have been talking about. There are men tonight who would write a check for a million dollars in order to find peace. Millions of people are searching for it. Everytime they get close to finding the peace - Satan steers them away.

He binds them, puts up a smoke screen and they miss it. But if you have found Christ, you have found this peace. You have found the secret of life. There are many things you may not understand. There may still be many mysteries in your life. There may still be many problems. But down underneath you can relax and have peace that will lead you into confident living.

Now Jesus knew where he had come from, he knew why he was here, and he knew where he was going. And if you have him in your heart, his peace floods your soul.

✓ The storm was raging the sea was beating against the rocks, and the lightning was flashing and the thunder was roaring. The wind was blowing. But the little bird was asleep in the crevis of the rock. It's head under it's wing sound asleep. That is peace - to be able to sleep in a storm.

In Christ, we are relaxed and at peace. The restlessness passes in the midst of confusion, bewilderness, and perplexities of this life. The storm rages but our hearts are at rest. We have found peace at last.

Col. 1:20 - Having made peace through the blood of his cross. Is you life, like the troubled Atlantic - the restless waves casting up mire and dirt. There is no peace saith God to the wicked.

6 yr. Boy told 4 yr. sister last week "I'll love you with God love" -

But we thank God there is peace to him that is afar off and to him that is near. The Lord said, I will heal him.