

HEALINGS OF JESUS

Not all Jesus' healing was solely for compassionate reasons (although I'm sure he always had compassion on the people he healed). The OT prophesied that the Messiah would heal the sick and the blind and make the lame walk (read Isaiah 35:1-16 etc) and this is how Jesus answered the disciples of John the Baptist when they asked him if he was the Messiah – [read Matthew 11:1-18]. Jesus healed lepers (Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19); healed the blind (Matthew 9:26-30; 29:34) and healed the lame (John 5:1-9).

Also when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead he deliberately waited two days before he set out just so that Lazarus would have been dead for 4 days by the time he arrived because the Jews believed that the spirit of a dead man remained with the body for three days after he was dead. So they believed it was possible for certain sorcerers and magicians to raise a man from the dead for up to three days after his death, but that it was impossible for anyone to do this after more than three days. Jesus didn't want to be classified as just a sorcerer or magician, so he waited to raise Lazarus four days after his death – read John 11:1-45.

Jesus healed in many different ways and I believe he did this to avoid people thinking you just had to follow a formula for healing. Sometimes he touched the person, sometime she spoke, sometime she told them to go and do something (like wash in the Jordan), sometimes he wasn't even present at the healing (Matthew 8:5-13).