



# Healing & Wholeness #1

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## The Foundation

w/c 7 September 2025

*"In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight--a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Saviour opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be." (Cornelius Plantinga ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelius\\_Plantinga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelius_Plantinga)))*

Over the next few weeks, we'll be looking at some aspects of healing and wholeness within our Christian context. We begin by looking at two passages which provide an insight to their foundations.

As we think of these two ideas it's worth remembering that 'whole' derives from the Old English 'hale', itself meaning healthy, so, if you like, someone who has been healed. Both healing and wholeness are also regularly seen as an outworking of *shalom* – that deeper and purer form of peace that only truly comes from God. You may like to pause and reflect on the words from Cornelius Plantinga in the quotation above.

The New Testament makes it clear that our wholeness comes through having become citizens of God's kingdom. See for example Colossians 1:13: *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved son."* (NTFE). It's important to note the tense of the Greek used – this is something that has happened, is complete; done and dusted, once and for all. We find a similar idea in his description of us as a *"new creation"* (2 Corinthians 5:17); the old things have passed away – the Greek is clear that Paul sees this as a completed action.

After reading each of our two passages for today (**Isaiah 53:1-5 and Mark 2:1-12**), I suggest that you ask yourself the four questions from the Discovery Bible study programme and then share your thoughts together:

What does this story tell me about God?

What does it tell me about human life?

If this really is God's word, what will do as a response to it?

Who am I going to tell about what I have learned from this?

As we reflect on bringing wholeness and healing to those around us, it is a good, right and proper calling to heal the wounds of the injured; it is though also necessary to seek to remove the cause of those wounds. While food banks are good, solving the issues that lead to systemic hunger for so much of our society is better still. That surely is the outworking of *"To act justly and to love mercy"* (Micah 6:8): how do we balance these two aspects in our lives and work?

*"Whole people see and create wholeness wherever they go; split people see and create splits in everything and everybody." (Richard Rohr)*