

Do You Need a Doctor?

by Carolyn Webb

As my husband struggled with an autoimmune disease that made him susceptible to bleeding, a nurse said to him, "I'll bet you're tired of living in a bubble." To which he replied, "No. What I'm tired of is everyone telling me how sick I am."

Spiritually, we might experience something similar. Do you get tired of hearing how sin-sick you are? Do you try to create a bubble around yourself to protect you from the world?

Perhaps you surround yourself with Christian friends, Christian music, Christian movies, and Christian literature. There is nothing wrong with that unless it leads you to think that you aren't infected with the same sin-sickness as the rest of the world.

The Pharisees of Jesus time thought they were protected from the sin because they knew all the laws and piously practiced their religion. They avoided people like tax collectors and other sinners to avoid being infected by their sins. Jesus had a different message for them. *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Matthew 9:12-13)

If we don't recognize our illness we don't seek out the help of a physician. If we don't recognize our sin we see no need for a Savior. Don't tire of hearing the law of God and how we fall short. It is only when we recognize the sin in our lives that we accept the help that Jesus provides.

*Jesus, grant that balm and healing in your holy wounds I find,
Every hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within tempt my treacherous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning keep me from its first beginning.*
(CW 121:1)



Season: Lent

Videos: 3. Is Your Glass Half Empty or Half Full?
5. Drop that Stone.

Devotions: 141. Sad Prayers
191. "DO NOT FEAR"

Prayer: 39. I Need You by Diana Kerr

Super Girl: 19. You know the song "I've Got Peace Like a River..."

Scripture References: Hosea 6:6; Matthew 12:7; Mark 2:17; Mark 12:33; Luke 5:31, 32;
1 Timothy 1:15

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