

A Greater Healing to Come

Name: _____

Read Matthew 8:14–17 on page 6 of the Student Text and answer the question that follows.

Matthew says that Jesus’ miracles fulfilled a verse written by the prophet Isaiah. **What is the name of the prophecy from which this verse appears? (Hint: See page 266 of the Student Text.)**

The Suffering Servant prophecy

Read the paragraph from the *Catechism* below and answer the questions that follow.



Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1505

Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: ‘He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.’¹ But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover. On the cross Christ took upon himself the whole weight of evil and took away the ‘sin of the world,’² of which illness is only a consequence. By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion.

¹ Mt 8:17; cf. Is 53:4.
² Jn 1:29; cf. Is 53:4–6.

Jesus miraculously healed many people. But he did not heal everyone who was sick. According to the paragraph above, Jesus’ healings were signs of a greater healing that was to come. **Of what greater healing were Jesus’ miracles of healing a sign?**

Victory over sin and death

Jesus does not always choose to heal us from *physical* illness. But through faith and hope, we believe and trust that he plans to bring us *spiritual* healing. Through grace, Jesus can heal us from sin so we can live in the glory of God’s everlasting kingdom, where there will be no more illness or suffering.

How does this understanding change how you can respond to physical sufferings you may experience?

Answers may vary.