

September 16 2018
Mark 1:29-34; 40-45

#2 Good News- No Band-Aid, But a Total Healing

²⁹ After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew.

³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once.

³¹ He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

³² That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed.

³³ The whole town gathered near the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

⁴⁰ A man with a skin disease approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and begged, "If you want, you can make me clean."

⁴¹ Incensed, Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do want to. Be clean."

⁴² Instantly, the skin disease left him, and he was clean. ⁴³ Sternly, Jesus sent him away, ⁴⁴ saying, "Don't say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifice for your cleansing that Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ Instead, he went out and started talking freely and spreading the news so that Jesus wasn't able to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, but people came to him from everywhere.

Last Sunday we started a sermon series on Mark. The good news for us is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. It is here. The Kingdom of God means that King Jesus is ruling, He is present and we can live a life that is different – a new life, a life of repentance, a life of abundance. Jesus said: "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

After Jesus announced publicly that the kingdom of God is here, He called his first disciples Simon, Andrew, James and John. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started to teach. There he healed a person with an evil spirit. We will come back and we will talk more about evil spirits in few weeks.

Where did Jesus go when the worship service was finished? Hmm. Let's follow him. Jesus went to Simon's home. Several things stand out to me. Remember: Jesus called Simon and Andrew and "Right away, they left their nets and followed him". You know what that means. They left all they had and all they were doing and started to follow Jesus. They left their home and their families. It scares me a lot. Somehow it is possible to continue to have a relationship with the household you left. Somehow God puts everything in place and brings peace and healing in whatever we do for Him. He fills up empty spaces and gives us much more when we follow Him. It is hard for me to imagine how I would feel if suddenly my husband says he is leaving to follow the Rabbi.

We do not know many details, but the fact is that Simon went to his home where his mother-in-law was sick. So many times we are afraid of what is going to happen if suddenly we will start to truly follow Jesus. What will happen if I turn away from old life?

Yet, somehow in the kingdom of God, it works out that this is the way we have peace and healing. Simon's mother-in-law has a fever. It is dangerous. In that day you could easily die. It was serious.

Jesus entered the house and went to her. "He took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them". Jesus took her by the hand.



He took her by her hand and what happens? Did you hear the words: "Raised her up"? Do you know what I think? It reminds me of Jesus' resurrection. I think it is beautiful. Jesus is already giving life that comes from him. Jesus takes her hand, raises her up from illness and from her bed where she able to do nothing. The fever left her and she served them.

Let us ponder a few things.

Jesus crossed several barriers. In the days before antibiotics it was well understood that you stay away from a room of a sick person. You definitely do not touch a person with a fever. Culturally, a man does not touch a woman.

There is not even a word about her faith. She says not a word. There is no record of Peter or his wife asking Him to heal her. We know Peter has faith. Peter follows Jesus. We know nothing about his mother-in-law – not even her name. It is our first clue that Peter was even married. The whole focus is on Jesus, the healer. He sees, he comes close, he takes her by her hand and she is healed. That's it.

We will talk a lot about miracles of healing. What do you do in our 21st century with that information? What do we take today from Jesus' miraculous healings? Does Jesus heal today? Yes, indeed. There will be many of you who would say: Yes, I have witnessed, I have seen or I have been healed by Jesus. There are so many of us who still struggle with illness and need healing. We are waiting on God to heal us.

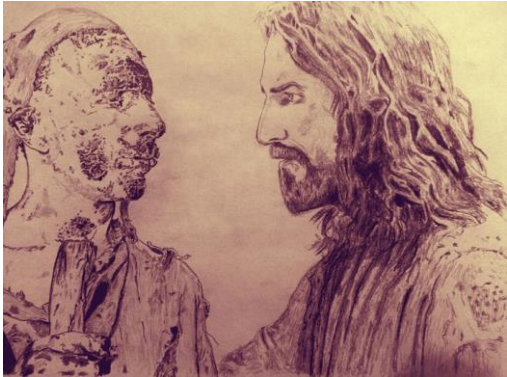
Jesus took Simon's mother-in-law by hand, raised her up and she started to serve. To serve. She is serving Jesus and others. The word is diakonein. I think she is the first deacon. Her response is immediate service. Jesus did not make her to feel just a little bit better. He did not give her just a little bit of strength. Jesus does not give a Band-Aid. He gives total healing.

"That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed.³³ The whole town gathered near the door.³⁴ He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons" Jesus became popular an in instant.

The people waited until evening because it was the Sabbath and they were not allowed to walk a long ways or carry anything or anybody until the Sabbath was over at sunset.

Whole town gathered and wanted to be healed and wanted their friends and family members healed. Mark says many were healed. According to Matthew 8 and Luke 4 all were healed. Jesus is on a rise and what does he do? He gets up early in the morning and goes to pray. He leaves the crowd. He leaves all the people because he knows the priorities. When He is overwhelmed with things to do, He goes early in the morning to pray. There are so many more who want to be healed. How can Jesus leave all the others? But Jesus leaves. In verse 38 we read "It is for this reason that I came -- to preach to the cities that lie ahead". The reason Jesus came is to preach. To proclaim good news.

Jesus travels throughout Galilee, preaches and teaches. Soon again he meets another person.



This time it is a man with a skin disease who approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and begged, "If you want, you can make me clean." A man with a skin disease! You are supposed to not touch or you will catch that disease and will become unclean by the law. This man knows he is sick. He wants to be healed. He begs Jesus to make him clean.

Jesus filled with compassion, reached out his hand touched him, and said, "I do want to. Be clean."



Jesus reached out his hand and touched him. How do you imagine Jesus touched him? Was it just a touch with one finger? Touch with a hand? Just a short touch? Why does Jesus even touch? What kind of touch is it when you are moved by compassion? He could have just said a word.

I know we all are different. Some of us, like me, love giving hugs. Some of us do not. I have to be careful and learn to respect that. It was pretty funny when one guy did not want to even give me a hand. The best he could do it is just a shoulder bump. It is hard for me but I have to except it.

On Wednesday I went to the clergy women's meeting with the bishop. It was inspiring to see 80 women gathered from around the Indiana. It was only one third of all the women clergy in the state. But I also had a hard time. After the meeting started I thought I will have to rewrite my sermon after it. There were so many women who had experience inappropriate touch or inappropriate words towards them as clergy women. Believe me I totally understand. I am very sorry that these things happen. On the other hand should I stop hugging?

What if Jesus would not have touched any of the people who were sick, unclean, or demon possessed? What if God, who saw the humanity, the humanity in need of healing and needs a Savior, did not want to become one of us, to embrace, to show love? What if we stop hugging our children, our parents, our spouses, friends, that we have not seen for years? What if our family of faith never touches? I do not want to live in far off isolation. That is not the life God is giving and calling me. I read that Jesus, who sees people, is moved by compassion, touches them and heals them.

The book I read for the kids this morning in children's Message is "Hug it out". Mother punishes her kids by making them to hug each other. As soon as they get in a squabble with each other they have to stand hugging each other. In the beginning it not pleasant. It is true punishment. They finally find the value and start liking the hug.

I think one of the saddest things for me is to see the child who is afraid and does not want to be hugged. The child who goes in a fetal position and will not let you to hug him.

Jesus touches the man with a skin disease. You know what should happen, Jesus should get the disease, but in the Kingdom of God, the person becomes clean.

That really does make sense. The Son of God was there when we were created and became living souls. If He made us in the first place. What is to stop Jesus from re-creating us.

Jesus says: "I do want to. Be clean". It is simple. Jesus says just a couple words. He says: "Be clean."

Jesus did not give a Band-Aid. He did not heal just a hand or some other part of the body. Jesus touched him, said: "Be clean, and the man was cleansed. He became all new. The one who has been separated, isolated, who has been an outcast, is restored, is totally healed, and given a life back.

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."



Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Mark 1:40-41

Have you found yourself in the position of that unclean man? Do you have a need of Jesus healing? What is your relationship with Jesus? Have you experienced him as a living and loving Savior? Has he touched you with the healing touch? Do you realize your uncleanness and the need of forgiveness of your sins? What areas of your life, of your body needs healing. Would you let Jesus to touch you? Would you want to hear the words: "I am willing, be clean?"

Jesus is healing. He is bringing his healing words and touches to all who realize they are sick and are willing to have a new life. There is a hurting world around us. Do you see them? Do you notice people who are isolated, who are sick and abandoned. Do you see them? Do you see what Jesus sees? Do we walk away, do we wave or we stop, we touch and give them life in the name of Jesus. I believe Jesus heals our souls and asks us to believe, to repent and have a new life in him. Make Him the Ruler of your life and receive a healing.

In 1963 Bill Gaither wrote a song. Elvis Presley recorded it with the Imperials. It is found in the hymnal on page 367.

[Verse 1]

Shackled by a heavy burden
'Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same

[Chorus]

He touched me, oh He touched me
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole

[Verse 2]

Since I met this blessed Savior
Since He's cleansed and made me whole
Oh I will never cease to praise Him
I'll shout it while eternity rolls

May this truly be your testimony.

If you are in need of healing of body, mind or soul I invite you to come forward and I will anoint you with oil.