

ESF Lord's day service message
10/16/2016

Jesus, The Healer
Luke 4: 38-46

³⁸ *Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.*

⁴⁰ *At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.*

⁴² *At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."*

⁴⁴ *And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.*

With the advancement of medical science today doctors can heal many different kinds of diseases. People's average life span has become longer than ever. But there are still many people who are suffering from various sicknesses which doctors cannot heal. Is there any hope for these suffering people? Today's word says "yes, there is hope."

Through the prophet Isaiah God promised that He would send the Healer who would heal all the sick: *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed* (Isaiah 53:5).

Later, the apostle Peter said that Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy: *He(Jesus) himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed* (1 Peter 2:24).

Let's see how Jesus accomplished God's promise of healing all the sick and how we too can receive His healing blessing.

Jesus heals both physical sickness and spiritual sickness

There are some physical diseases which doctors can't heal by any means. And there is no doctor who can heal a person who is sick of a demonic spirit. But Jesus can heal the diseases which doctors can't heal, Especially Jesus can heal the sick of demonic spirits.

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people ... (verses 40-41).

Not every disease is caused by a demonic spirit. But there are some diseases caused by this. If a person is sick of a demonic spirit, there is no medical equipment to detect the spirit. There is no medicine to get rid of the spirit. However, Jesus detects all the demonic spirits which sicken people. Jesus can drive the demonic spirits out of the sick and heal them. Let's see a couple of examples.

In Mark chapter 5, there was a demon-possessed man. His family and his doctors did everything they could to heal the man. However, they were unable to heal him. He was controlled by thousands of demonic spirits. He became powerful and out of control. People try to put him under control by binding him with chains. But he broke the chains. He became wild and lived near the tombs and in the hills. Night and day he cried out and cut himself with stones. People gave up on healing him.

One day Jesus came to the town and the sick man encountered Jesus. As soon as he saw Jesus, the demons in him recognized who Jesus was. They shouted that Jesus was the Son of God. They knew that Jesus detected them and had spiritual authority to destroy them. So, the demons were terrified by Jesus and begged Him not to destroy them. However, Jesus ordered them to come out of the man and they obeyed. The sick man instantly got healed and became normal.

In Mark chapter 9, there was a boy who was sick of epilepsy. The boy's father took him to many doctors but no doctor was able to heal him. The father and all the doctors did not know that the boy's sickness was caused by an evil spirit. One day, the father brought the boy to Jesus and asked for healing. As soon as Jesus saw the sick boy, He immediately detected the evil spirit in the boy. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, "*You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.*" And the evil spirit came out of the boy and he was healed.

Are you sick of a disease which no medicine or doctor can heal? Believe that Jesus has the authority to heal your disease. Bring your sickness to Jesus. Ask Him for healing of your disease. Have you seen anybody around you who is suffering from a demonic spirit? Bring that person to Jesus. Use the spiritual healing power of Jesus. Use His name to rebuke the evil spirit. Jesus will dispense His spiritual healing power through you.

Jesus heals the sick personally

Jesus healed every sick person with a personal and individual touch. In today's text we can see it: *At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.* There is only one exception of Jesus' personal healing of sick people. It was Jesus' healing of 10 lepers at once (Luke 17:11-17).

Jesus worked all day long. When people brought many sick people to Him that day after sunset, He was tired already. So He might have been inclined to heal many sick people at once. He had the power of God to heal in such a way. But he didn't heal the sick that way. Why? Because, Jesus wanted to reach out to every sick person personally. Jesus treated every sick person as a precious child of God. So He healed the sick one by one.

Every person is unique and different from others in terms of physical shape, character, talent, strength, weakness and problems. So, every

person must be taken care of personally when the person needs help. If Jesus treats you just as a part of the group, your personal problem may remain unsolved. Even if it is solved, you cannot be connected to God personally.

Jesus cares for every single one of us with personal understanding, personal love and personal respect. Even if we come to Him in a large group, in a crowd, He knows every single one of us personally. He takes care of us individually. In the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7), Jesus emphasizes this point:

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep

So even if you are coming to Jesus among the crowd, expect His personal care and His personal healing touch on you. He will take care of you personally. He will solve your personal problem.

Jesus heals the families of His followers

Jesus went to a house of a sick person to heal that person. The sick person was Simon's mother-in-law. This text shows the family relationship between Simon and the sick person who Jesus healed. Why? To emphasize that Jesus takes care of the families of those who follow Him faithfully.

Simon was a married man when he was following Jesus as a disciple. He left his family and his fishing business to follow Jesus. So, his wife must have taken more responsibility since he started following Jesus. She had to take care of her family without his income. It might have been difficult for her to manage the home by herself. So, his mother-in-law might have felt sorry for her daughter. Although she and her mother might not have complained about Simon's commitment to following

Christ, they might have been stressed out by managing their home without Simon.

Then did Jesus not care about the problems of Simon's family? Did Jesus call Simon to abandon his wife and family to follow Him? No. When Jesus called Simon to leave everything including his family to follow Him, He did not mean that Simon should abandon his family. Jesus meant that Simon should live a new life with a priority of putting God first.

Jesus commands us to love God more than we love anybody else including our families. In a believer's life, God is more important than family. But by the command, Jesus does not mean that we must completely sacrifice or abandon our family to serve God. Jesus means that we must serve Him with priority. While we serve Him first of all, we must not neglect our duties to take care of our families.

By visiting the home of Simon's mother-in-law and healing her sickness, Jesus taught His followers this truth. Jesus intentionally took the time to take care of a family member of His follower. Jesus teaches us that God not only comes to congregated churches but also to individual homes. He teaches that God works not only in the believers' ministries outside of their homes but also in their homes.

We should never neglect our duties to take care of our families while we serve the Lord.

There are many challenges and problems we may face while we serve the Lord and take care of our families at the same time. Our ministries are facing more complicated problems today in the rapidly changing world than ever before. The devil attacks the church with many new weapons. Our homes today are facing not only physical problems but also spiritual problems. The devil does not leave our homes alone so we can serve the Lord faithfully. The devil does not want to see our homes happy. He brings conflicts and temptations to our homes.

But Jesus, the Son of God who has authority over the devil, is on our side. He is ready to help us defeat the devil's scheme. All we need to do is asking Him for help. Verse 38 says, "they asked Jesus to help her (the sick mother-in-law of Simon)." Who were "they?" They were other disciples who were following Jesus together with Simon. They prayed Jesus to heal Simon's mother-in-law. And Jesus healed her as they prayed.

With this example, Jesus assures us that He will listen to the prayer for our families. Jesus encourages us to pray for our families and for the families of our Christian brothers and sisters. Are you struggling with balancing your ministry for the Lord and your duty for your family? Ask the Lord for His intervention. He will provide you with what you need to balance your ministry duty with your family duty. He will take care of what you can't take care of.

Preaching is more important than healing

The next morning after Jesus healed many sick people in the town, the people requested that Jesus would stay in the town and keep healing the sick. They admired Jesus as the healing Lord of every sickness.

But Jesus declined their request and left the town. Why? Wouldn't it be a wonderful opportunity for Jesus to promote God's kingdom if He stayed in the town and kept healing the sick? If He stayed in the town, the people would keep bringing the sick from near and far. Eventually the people from the entire country of Israel and even from neighboring countries would come to meet Him. And he could reach out to them at one place. He did not need to travel here and there to reach out to the people which would take lots of time and would be costly and inconvenient.

But Jesus told them that He had to leave. He gave them the reason for leaving the town in verse 43: *"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."*

Healing was a very important part in Jesus' ministry. But healing was not the most important part of His ministry. The most important ministry was preaching the word of God. Healing comes and goes. But the word of God lasts forever. Jesus may heal some sick people but may not heal everyone. But the word of God must be preached to all, to both the sick and the healthy.

So preaching the word was the first priority and goal in Jesus' ministry. To accomplish this goal, Jesus was determined not to be moved by urgent needs and requests of the people. The people's attempts to hold onto Christ may not have been limited to the vocal and emotional. They may have hung onto Him physically too. His heart must have been broken for them. He might have been torn emotionally, but He was not swayed by the emotion. The best thing He could do for them was to stay true to the goal.

One of the biggest temptations believers face is being sidetracked by the urgent. Many situations need our attention. They tempt us to steal our focus.

But we must follow Jesus' example. By this example, Jesus teaches us that every other need we have is secondary to the need to hear and receive the word of God. Physical healing affects this life alone. The word of God is forever. We must focus on hearing the word of God while we seek His healing of our sickness. We must trust that even if He does not heal our sickness, He will take care of us if we listen to the word.

Do you have a problem which needs urgent help from the Lord? Have you prayed to the Lord to solve the problem but have not received any answer yet? Do not be discouraged. Keep praying for the answer. But while you are praying, focus on hearing the word of God. The Lord will answer you soon enough according to His best plan for your life.