

"Our Savior Who Heals, Prays, and Preaches"

(Mark 1:29-39)

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Introduction: What This Gospel Isn't:

- a. John Wimber who started The Vineyard and went around asking, "Where's the stuff?"
- b. Some read this Scripture and assume that genuine Christianity is marked by "signs and wonders" and physical healing.
- c. Sometimes to the point that some claim that if one is not physically healed from disease that faith is lacking.
- d. This is an atrocity.

Part I: Why Did Jesus Conduct These Miracles:

- a. First to show His compassion towards us.
- b. That this leads to His joining us in our lives...He went to the house of Simon and Andrew. Don't underestimate this simple fact. Jesus joins us.
- c. Verse 30: Second to show His approachability.
 - 1) We should bring all of our needs to Jesus.
 - 2) This does not mean that we assume to tell Him what to do.
 - 3) But we beg Him to help us with everything, including our illnesses...His response to our pleas is always, always, always in mercy, and in grace, and for our good.
- d. But perhaps most importantly (3rd reason for this particular scene): His miracles of healing teach us about Who Jesus is...and indeed about why He came.
 - 1) It wasn't to open a clinic in Capernaum...though Christ is also working through all clinics and hospitals.
 - 2) But He was not going to conform to the ideas that people had of what it meant to be Messiah.
 - 3) Instead these miracles pointed to His real mission: to save us from the greatest threat, the most severe disease...He would indeed and He has indeed HEALED us from sin and death.
 - 4) The miracles said, "Follow Me! Listen to Me! Trust in Me!"

Part II: We Can Because Behold His Power!

- a. In verse 31, where the ESV simply says the fever "left," this word is the same word used for "forgive." This informs us of how our Savior deals with our sins.
- b. When Christ took Peter's mother-in-law by the hand and lifted her up, His touch caused her fever to be gone.
- c. Luke's parallel says that Christ "rebuked" the fever in the same way He had "rebuked" the wind and the waves!
- d. In the same way, when Christ comes to you through His Word and Sacrament, He "touches" you and your sin is gone...rebuked...and indeed, the greatest healing is had, because you become freed from all the fetters of sin, the devil, and hell!

Part III: And Then He Prayed:

- a. Again, He was constantly confronted with the false petitions and pursuits of people who mistook His ministry.
- b. We must confess our tendency to do the same to Him.
- c. Why do we seek Him?
- d. Listen to what our Lord gets back to when speaking to His disciples (verse 38): Let's go...because I came to preach.
- e. Why do we seek Him?
- f. It must be for His Word to reach our ears, our hearts, our souls, our minds.
- g. It must be so that we remain in grace.
- h. It must be so that our sins are forgiven.
- i. It must be not so that we would be physically healed until the next time we get sick.

Conclusion: We are called to believe in His healing that is best.

- a. I had a conversation in confession for someone outside our parish.
- b. They brought their great fear of disease and illness.
- c. I encouraged them not to allow the devil to dabble with these minor things.
- d. Cut to the chase! What is far worse than diabetes, arthritis, cancer, and heart disease? It is death.
- e. Cut to the chase! What has Christ done with death?
- f. Job knew:

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!" (Job 19:25-27)

- g. On the cross, He bore all of our diseases that lead to death (Isaiah 53) and through His resurrection He destroyed every one of them.
- h. Your healing goes beyond a good check-up next week, your healing goes beyond the possibility of your feeling better later this afternoon...your healing is guaranteed, your healing is eternal...for he has taken you by the hand, lifted you up, and your sin is gone.
- i. Yes, for now we will struggle, but live in your faith Christian, Jesus has rebuked your sin, and death has been destroyed.