

People Flock to Jesus for Healing!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

September 23, 2018

Mark 1:29-34

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew's house with James and John. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town was assembled at the door, 34 and he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

It started with Simon Peter's Mother-in-law.



The kingdom of God restores us through life as God intended.

Jesus Christ has come to restore humanity to God. This restoration is both spiritual and material, that is, Jesus intends to restore both our soul and our body. The miraculous healings Jesus performed were signs that the Father had given him this authority and power.

Jesus wants to heal us.

Jesus never scolds or berates people for coming to him for healing. He understands what it means to suffer because he himself is human. Jesus often healed before he taught, caring for people's physical needs before addressing their spiritual condition.

A Pattern for Us to Follow

In caring for people's material needs, Jesus is setting before us a pattern for us to follow in the church. We should not be merely speaking of spiritual matters but tending to the material needs of others as well.

Scripture *for Further Study*

The story of the raising of Lazarus illustrates how God sometimes allows sickness or suffering to affect us so that a higher purpose might be revealed. This healing took place right before Jesus entered Jerusalem and faced the cross. People in Jerusalem had heard about Jesus' power to raise the dead and celebrated his entrance into the holy city on the day we now celebrate as Palm Sunday.

Read the story of the raising of Lazarus in **John 11**

Application *for Abundant Living*

A
S
K

The Christian response to sickness is in two parts. First, we should ask for healing with the faith of knowing that God cares about the well-being of all his children. When we ask, we are acknowledging the source of healing comes from God. This acknowledgment moves God to act on our behalf.

Second, we should pray that God might reveal a deeper purpose. If we pray for healing and do not receive it immediately, God may have other work he is doing either within us or through us.

Questions *for Group Discussion*

Have you ever experienced something miraculous?

Have you ever faced a sickness that resulted in a spiritual blessing?

What gifts do you have, and how can you use them for the glory of God?