

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39; Revelation 21:1-5

Jesus Makes Broken People Whole

Beloved in Christ, some of us [I think most of us!] are looking forward to the spring season. In the winter, everything is cold, dead and brown. In the spring, the earth starts warming up; trees turn green and soon there are flowers blooming everywhere. There is color, brightness and life. A great reversal takes place from winter to spring, a new creation!

Likewise, sin came into the world through one man, Adam, our first parent. Sin brings brokenness; that is, all kinds of sadness, sickness, disease and death. But there is One who came into this world to reverse the pattern: Christ Himself. He came to reverse the curse and to make broken people whole, to restore and make a new creation. That's because He alone is able to deal with the root of the problem: sin.

We see the beginning of this reversal in Mark 1. It will climax in Christ's death and resurrection. This reversal becomes complete at the end of time when Christ returns when God "*will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes; there shall be no more death, no sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain...*" [Revelation 21:4]

The coming of Christ into the world vividly marks the beginning of this reversal. The kingdom of God has come in Christ. The tying up of Satan has begun. But so has the reversal. The many miracles are signs pointing us to the fullness to come! In Mark 1:29-39, we see that Jesus our King makes broken people whole. We see

1. His compassion in serving broken people [vv.29-31]
2. His tirelessness in serving broken people [vv.32-34]
3. His focus in serving broken people [vv.35-39]

His Compassion in Serving Broken People

It was still Saturday, the Sabbath, the day of rest. Jesus was at the synagogue, at the house of worship, teaching the congregation as we heard last week. It's in the house of worship that Jesus shows that He has broken into Satan's house. He shows His authority over all earthly powers in His preaching and confirms it in casting out the unclean spirit from the man.

After the service, Jesus did what many people would do and that is go to someone's home to relax, eat, talk and enjoy the Sabbath day rest together. We read in verse 29, "**Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John**" So all four disciples are walking with Jesus and go to Simon and Andrew's house.

We read in **verse 30**, ***“But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick with a fever and they told Him about her at once.”*** This was not a low grade fever. Simon [Peter], by the way, was a married man; his wife’s mother was living with them and so was his brother, Andrew. His mother-in-law was in bed with a burning hot fever. The word ‘fever’ literally means ‘fire.’ Her condition was quite serious, serious enough that they told Jesus about it right away. She was unable to walk or function. How Jesus must have suffered to see the sad, sad effects of sin which we brought upon ourselves.

What does Jesus do? **Verse 31**, ***“So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.”*** Christ also came to sacrifice His life for this woman and He confirms this with a sign: removing her fever instantly. He made her whole. See His love and how He meets this woman’s need. He goes to her, takes her by the hand, lifts her up; the fever is gone!

The symptoms vanish completely. She doesn’t say, ‘My fever is gone; let me get some bed rest. I feel exhausted.’ No trace of weakness. In fact, she immediately got up and began serving food to her guests! Jesus raises her to serve with joy in His kingdom! But there’s more.

Jesus did not heal her so that He and His disciples could eat food. No, in healing her, Jesus also restores true Sabbath joy! The King in His grace makes her whole. They eat food with joy. The King brought salvation and peace to Simon’s house! Sabbath joy follows His new creation. See the King’s compassion on her – undeserved, unearned; yet, freely given in His love and grace!

There is great hope for broken people here. Today Jesus is on the throne as King. The reversal has taken place in His death and resurrection. A new creation emerges. You might be broken by sin inside you, whether you know Jesus or not. You need the touch of His grace. **Hebrews 4:16** says, ***“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace in time of need.”*** You only need to talk to Him about it, like the disciples did! Ask Him. He makes broken people whole so that they can serve Him again and enjoy His rest.

The compassion Jesus demonstrated to Peter’s mother-in-law, He now extends to crowds of broken people. This brings us to our next point. We see

Christ’s Tirelessness in Serving Broken People

This brings us to verses 32-34. The news of Jesus began to spread around, not only among those in the synagogue, but all of Galilee! We heard last week that ***“immediately His fame spread throughout all the region of Galilee”*** [1:28].

Now it was evening; the sun had set. The Sabbath day, which was from sunset Friday to sunset Sunday, was now over. Jesus is still at the home of Simon enjoying fellowship. From verses 32-33-, we read, “... **they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.**” That is; the whole city of Capernaum is at the door of Peter’s house with the crippled, the diseased, the comatose, and the demon-possessed to see Jesus! Let’s be clear, it does not say that the sick had demons. Being crippled is not having a demon. There is a clear distinction made between the sick and the demon-possessed.

The sense here is one after the other were coming. It was a continuing procession of people coming with their sick. Peter’s house was being over-run! How Jesus must have suffered seeing the sad, sad results which we by our sin brought into the world. He came to forgive sin and bring us into fellowship with God. He came to reverse the curse and make a new creation out of broken people. The physical healings were signs pointing to that reality: He has come to make all things new!

See verse 34, “**Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.**” What an evening! Demons fled. They have no right to occupy and spoil human lives. Those being bedridden were tossing their mattresses and crutches into the air. The comatose were now talking. Never was there a lack in Christ’s power to heal. He never failed in His love and sympathy. He labored tirelessly that evening and into the night, after a busy day! See in these signs, Jesus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:4, “**Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...**” This was already the beginning of His suffering and His suffering increases till He goes to the cross to make the ultimate sacrifice in our place so that we might be made fully new by God’s grace!

Christ was tireless in serving. His compassions never fail. Today He works tirelessly from His throne in heaven to bring healing to needy men and women. Hebrews 7:25, says, “**Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**”

But even then at Simon’s house, Christ did become weary and tired. It was a long, strenuous day. He is fully divine but we must not forget that He was also fully human. So He felt the need to pray. This brings us to our third point in verses 35-39. We see

Christ’s Focus in Serving Broken People

Jesus went out of the house long before daylight. Verse 35, “. . . **He went out and departed to a solitary place and there He prayed.**” ‘Long while before daylight’ may be somewhere between 3-6 AM.

Why did He want to pray? He wanted communion with His Father in heaven. In that communion with Him, He had to be strengthened time and time again. He was bearing the griefs and carrying the sorrows of His people. It would have no good effect

on His people unless He took the curse of sin upon Himself; take their guilt and go to the cross with it. He suffered a lot while doing all this work – bringing all that sin and guilt before God.

But also He must have been tempted by Satan to stop His work. He was misunderstood by the crowds. Many were ‘using’ Jesus only for physical ‘pain relief’, a Tylenol or a ‘magic pill’; nothing more. They did not understand Him nor His teaching and healing – that **“by His stripes we are healed”** [Isaiah 53:5]. He needed strength in the battle against Satan for our salvation!

Even Simon and those with him, did not understand Jesus’ ministry. Peter also was drawn away by all the glamor and excitement of the crowds. Jesus had become so popular and so successful. See verses 36-37, they **“searched for Him.”** They pursue Him. They hunt Him down. **“When they found Him, they said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.”** They are saying, ‘Jesus, things are going great after last night. Let’s go back to Capernaum and make the most of it!’

So it is today; there are people, even crowds, who focus on the signs and wonders. They love the excitement and the drama, but this was not the focus of Jesus. His focus we see in verses 38-39. His answer was a surprise: **“But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth. And He went preaching in their synagogues...”** He came from God in order to preach.

Capernaum wanted Him for the wrong reasons. Jesus’ response is to leave the area. Christ’s focus in serving broken people is preaching, preaching the truth from the Word of God: “repent and believe in the good news”[1:15]. The Holy Spirit uses the preaching of the Word to change lives, to make us new, to make us whole. The kingdom comes through preaching; not through signs and wonders. Signs and wonders confirmed the truth of the kingdom!

His work goes deep into the heart. Jesus emphasized spiritual healing, healing of lives broken by sin. He came to pay for our sin on the cross and bring us into a right relationship with God. He heals us from bitterness, hatred, lust, anger, jealousy, and gossip. This is the new life Christ by His Spirit brings forth: making broken people whole!

There is more to come: a newly resurrected body that will never die. Note a few things:

First, sometimes, people say, ‘now, if only we could have miracles like this here today in our congregation, many would believe in Jesus.’ But do we need that? We have Christ’s witness in His Word, in Mark 1: many were healed! Do we need to see it with our eyes? Capernaum did, yet many did not believe. We have His full witness in the Word. Do we believe His Word? Thomas would not believe until he saw. But Jesus rebuke him say, **“blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”** [John 20:29].

Second, all the physical healings are temporary at best. Everyone physically healed in Jesus' day still eventually died. We still die. Though we have new life in Christ, we still today suffer pain, disease, sickness.

But Jesus offers us great hope in Mark 1. All the physical healings of Jesus point to the reality of the coming of a newly physical resurrected body for believers and a new creation. These miracles are called signs in the Scripture. What do signs do? They point to the reality, the fullness to come. These signs of the kingdom point to the coming of the glorious new heaven and new earth. There will be no more cripples, no more blind or deaf or mentally handicapped. This is the glorious sure hope for all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Hear these words of Revelation 21, "**Now I [John] saw a new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and earth have passed away. . . and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne [this is Jesus!] said, 'Behold, I make all things new!'**" And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful' [21:1,4,5].

Spring comes each year again, but the reversal, the new creation Christ brings, is forever, once for all time! All glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.