

Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, April 5, 2020

“Finding God in the Midst of Our Scattering: The Lord our Healer”

Mark 2:1-12

“As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.” (Proverbs 23:7)

Our beliefs about ourselves can determine our _____—how we think and act.

Faced with this reality we can feel _____, with nowhere to turn and no hope of change.

These feelings can become heightened and even _____ in our current situation when we’re stuck inside alone, _____ on our own thoughts day in and day out; or when we’re stuck inside with other people who _____ these lies and false beliefs.

“God said to them, ‘If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.’” (Exodus 15:26)

Rophe =

We see this word 67 times in the Old Testament, and although it often refers to _____ healing, it has a much larger meaning, involving the _____ person. God doesn’t just want to heal our physical bodies—He wants to heal us _____, _____, and body.

When we pray to Jehovah-Rophe, we’re praying to the _____ of all healing—the One who wants to bring _____ and wholeness into our lives. It’s no wonder that God’s Son, Jesus is called the Great _____—and it’s no wonder that _____ and wholeness was a central characteristic of His ministry.

3 THINGS JESUS DOES WHEN WE COME TO HIM

#1. When we come to Jesus, He _____ us.

“Some people brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and lying on a mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people he said to the paralyzed man, ‘Be encouraged, son...’” (Matthew 9:2)

Jesus didn’t _____ the man; He didn’t _____ him or get angry with him. He _____ him—and He showed _____.

2 THINGS JESUS DID TO ENCOURAGE THE PARALYTIC

• **He _____ his _____.**

Sometimes when we’re hurting and in need of healing we can be _____ to come to God.

God _____ about us. He always has _____ for us. Nothing is too big or too small to bring to Him.

God never _____ us—even if our hurts are the consequences of our own bad _____—because His love isn’t based on our _____—on what do or don’t do; on whether we get it right all the time. His love is _____. It is based on who He is.

“No fear exists where his love is. Rather, perfect love gets rid of fear...” (1 John 4:18)

• **He _____ about his _____.**

Often when we’re hurting; when we’re going through a problem; or in need of healing, we can feel totally _____—like no one _____ what we’re going through. However, when we find ourselves in this place, we need to remember that we’re _____ alone—that even though no one else understands—_____ does!

“Jesus is able to understand our weaknesses. When he lived on this earth he was tempted in every way that we are but he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus understands, not just because He is _____; and not just because He’s _____ there, but because He knows us _____. He knows our thoughts and feelings; He knows our words before we speak them and our actions before we do them.

“O Lord you know everything about me. You know my every thought. You know what I am going to say even before I say it.” (Psalm 139:1-2)

We don’t have to be afraid, _____, or guilty—we don’t have to hide or _____. We can come to Jesus freely, and without _____.

“Cast all your burdens on the Lord because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

#2. When we come to Jesus, He _____ our faults and failures.

Jesus always goes beneath the _____—beyond the _____ signs and _____—beyond the illness—to the _____ of the

problem.

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” (Mark 2:5)

It’s interesting that this guy came to be healed of a _____ infirmity and Jesus _____ his sins.

Jesus knew that the presenting problem—the man’s inability to move—was only a _____ of a much bigger, _____ problem. And so He went right to the root—to the _____ of the issue.

Jesus knew what the guy wanted—to be physically healed. But more importantly, He knew what the guy needed—to be _____ healed. He knew his need for _____.

Jesus knew that despite his paralysis, the man’s real problem was his guilty _____ and the sin in his life, and so He treated him with the medicine he needed—He _____ him.

If you’re carrying a burden of guilt and shame and want to be free—if you’re looking for a clear _____—the only place you’re going to find it is God.

3 THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD’S FORGIVENESS

- **It is _____.** We can’t _____ it; beg for it; or bargain for it—all we have to do is _____ it—all we have to do is _____ and receive.

“God says he will accept and acquit us, declare us not guilty if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins, no matter who we are or what we have been like.” (Romans 2:23)

- **It is _____.** We don’t have to be _____, hesitant, or shy about coming to God for forgiveness. When we come to God with our sin we don’t find anger, punishment, or _____. We find _____ for the things we’ve done in the past and _____ to change in the future.

“Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God and there we will receive his mercy and we will find grace to help us when we need it.” (Hebrews 4:16)

It is _____. When God forgives us it’s _____. God doesn’t dredge up the _____ to use against us—unlike us, He can

forgive and _____.

“I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!” (Jeremiah 31:34)

“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” (Psalm 103:12)

“No matter how deep the stain of your sin I can take it out. I can make you clean as freshly fallen snow.” (Isaiah 1:18)

#3. When we come to Jesus, He _____ our faith.

Often when Jesus heals someone, He asks them to do something that seems humanly _____.

“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic—‘I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them...” (Mark 2:10-12)

Faith is more than just _____—faith is something we _____—it’s action. Faith is doing what God tells us to do—even when we don’t _____—even when it seems _____.

“According to your faith it will be done for you.” (Matthew 9:29)

“Your faith has made you well.” (Mark 10:52)

We can interpret this passage to mean that if I’m not healed, it’s my _____—that I don’t have enough _____. I prefer to see Jesus’ words as a _____:

Do I really believe that God is Jehovah-Rophe?
Do I really believe that He wants to heal me—that He can heal me?
Do I trust Him enough to step out in faith?
What might Jesus be asking you to do in this season that seems impossible?

When Jesus asks us to do something we have never done before—something seemingly impossible—He always gives us the _____ to do it.

“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)