

## **HE HEALS IN THE HOUSE**

**Rev. Lawrence Baldrige**

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Don't you just love these New Testament stories that tell us so much about our Lord? Mark is the oldest Gospel, according to scholars, and gives us a good glimpse into the humanity of Jesus, for Mark was writing to the Romans to tell them about Jesus, and wanted them to see the manhood of our Lord. Mark, for example, is the only gospel writer to speak about Jesus' anger. He is the only Synoptic writer to tell us about Jesus' hunger, and Mark makes Jesus so human that, time after time, he points to our Lord's emotions, and the only Gospel writer to record Jesus' statement that He did not know when the end would come since only the Father knew that. Mark spoke of the human attributes of Jesus.

In this story today, we find Jesus going into a synagogue, perhaps the synagogue of Capernaum, and defying the legalists by breaking the Sabbath Law which said that on the Sabbath day there could be no healing unless the life of the person was in immanent danger of death. The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* says, "They permitted healing on the Sabbath only if a life was in danger. This man's problem was not life-threatening and could wait till the next day; so if Jesus healed him, they could accuse Him of being a Sabbath-violator, an offense punishable by death (cf. Ex. 31:14-17)". The man had only a withered hand and could have been healed later, on any of the other days, but Jesus chose to heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus told him to stand forth before everyone. The man obeyed our Lord. Jesus looked around at the hardness of hearts of the worshippers, and became exceedingly angry at their lack of love and compassion, and especially so at the Pharisees sent from the Sanhedrin Court. He therefore defied their precious preoccupation of defending orthodoxy, and demonstrated to them His concern for people in need of help, showing them that doing good on the Sabbath was much more important than their false goodness of keeping the traditions of men.

Wasn't our Savior wonderful! And He still is today, and the same yesterday, today, and forever. Heb. 13:8. That's what makes this story so intriguing. Jesus still heals in His house. In basketball the players hate to get defeated in "their house." The church that originated from the synagogue is Jesus' house; and He promised, "For where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mt. 18:20 He still heals in the house. When we gather in His Name, He is here. He is specifically here to Heal.

### **A. AS OUR GREAT PHYSICIAN, JESUS IS FIRST OF ALL HERE IN HIS HOUSE TO HEAL US SPIRITUALLY.**

**1. HE IS HERE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SPIRITUAL DEATH.** When Jesus entered that synagogue He knew all about the hearts of the people there. The Bible tells us that He knew what was in their hearts and did not need anyone to tell Him. He knew that these fine upstanding Jewish people, members of His race, were, like all people cursed with the curse of humanity. They were all sinners. Their sin had alienated them from God. They were spiritually dead. That was their condition.

That is the condition of all mankind. The Bible says, "There is none righteous, no

not one.” The Bible says, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.” Our sin may be hidden from man, but not from God. We are all who we are, and we cannot hide ourselves behind clothing and fig leaves. We are sinners on our way to a sinner’s hell. The death that is coming upon us is Eternal Death. Jesus knew the danger of these synagogue members who were worshipping in His House. That is why He came, “to seek and to save that which was lost.” He was in that synagogue to “rescue the perishing, to care for the dying, to snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.” He came to take away their spiritual death, to heal them spiritually.

**2. BUT THAT MEANT THAT HE CAME TO GIVE THEM SPIRITUAL LIFE.** The Bible says “The wages of sin is death...”; but then it adds, “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” He was there in that Capernaum synagogue to offer them Eternal Salvation. Like the Capernaum synagogue, this Caney Church is His House; and Every time we come into this holy place, Jesus comes to meet us, to meet with us, and to give us spiritual renewal and to give us who are dead in sin eternal life. I am certain that Jesus is saddened each Sabbath that so many refuse to repent of sin and to allow God’s Son to come into our lives and to be our Savior. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. If Jesus comes to church to meet us in our need and to heal us from our sin, then it is incumbent on us to come to the church for one purpose only—to meet Jesus. If you and I are simply here to see and be seen, then we are here for the wrong purpose entirely. Worship is to meet Him, to love Him, and finally to serve Him. Someone came to church late one Sunday due to day light savings time. As he started coming in, he was unable for those that were coming out. He asked someone, “Is the service ended?” The person responded, “The preaching has ended, but the service has just begun.” In His House Christ heals us from spiritual death and gives us spiritual life so that we might glorify His Name.

## **B. IN HIS HOUSE CHRIST ALSO HEALS US EMOTIONALLY.**

**1. HE DOES SO FIRST BY SHOWING US THAT OUR FEELINGS ARE NOT BAD.** Look for example at the emotions of Jesus. “Jesus looked around (from periblepomai, an all-inclusive penetrating look; cf. v. 34; 5:32; 10:23; 11:11) at the Pharisees in anger. This is the only explicit reference to Jesus’ anger in the New Testament.”

I have a friend who says that it is sinful to be angry. Anger is just a feeling. In Jesu’s case the anger was righteous anger, and the word orge is the same word to describe the anger of God in Romans. Jesus openly displayed His anger. He was thoroughly displeased with the members of the Sanhedrin Court who had heard about Him, and had come to catch Him in His heresies so that they could get rid of Him. Barclay writes this: “In the synagogue there was a deputation from the Sanhedrin. No one could miss them, for, in the synagogue, the front-seats were the seats of honour and they were sitting there. It was the duty of the Sanhedrin to deal with anyone who was likely to mislead the people and seduce them from the right way; and that is precisely what this deputation conceived themselves as doing. The last thing they were there to do was to worship and to learn; they were there to scrutinize Jesus’ every action.” They were not there to worship—this

angered Jesus. It still does. We are here for one purpose, to worship, as Jesus told us, “in spirit and in truth.” Through worship, Jesus heals in His house.

We too should be angry when people come to church for any other purpose than to worship God. We should be angry that Satan has won too many battles in the lives of the people who come to our church. We should be angry that we are not seeing more people come to church—He heals in His house. People need Christ. People need the Lord. People need His healing. Jesus heals the emotions in His house.

**2. HE HEALS US EMOTIONALLY BY HELPING US GET OUR EMOTIONS STRAIGHTENED OUT.** Jesus spoke of the priority in worship, when He told the woman of Samaria that God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. When we worship Him in spirit, our spirits agree with His Holy Spirit, and that is emotionally healing. Because we are toting around too much flesh, we are likely to go astray because of our very carnality, our lust, our pride. But His Spirit cleanses our spirit, heals our crippled spirits, and gives us hope. The greatest danger to emotional good health is hopelessness. When we decide that the world holds a closed door to us and that there is nothing we can do about it, we are driven to despair, depression, and to death. Jesus heals our spirit by His Spirit.

Then He heals our self-deception by His Truth. We are to worship in spirit and in truth. We are not Pharisees, here to judge others, to demean the deacons, the Sunday School teacher we may not like, the preacher who doesn't do such a good job in his preaching, or who may be socially awkward at times. We are not here to judge. God is the only Judge in His House; and Jesus is here to heal all the would-be-judges by showing them that He is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Christ Heals Emotionally in His House.

### **C. CHRIST ALSO HEALS US SOCIALLY IN HIS HOUSE.**

**1. IN CHRIST WE ARE ONE.** The chorus “We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,” is absolutely true. I was on Gilmer Slone's television program the other night, and he asked about the prejudice in Knott County. Since we are still in a presidential primary, he discussed the racial prejudice and the prejudice against women holding political office. I've certainly heard numerous people give their prejudiced views about that. But, in one sense, all our views are prejudiced. We don't have all the facts about anything. So when we come to a conclusion about anything without all the facts we are prejudiced. But any prejudice that puts one above another because of race, income, residence, or family is obnoxious and wrong. Christ alone can heal that. The Bible says, “In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; but we are all one in Christ Jesus.” The closest thing to oneness is family oneness, where we call each other ‘brother’ and ‘sister.’ That is the reason that church members over the centuries have referred to one another and ‘brother’ and ‘sister.’ We are to love everyone because in their humanity they have the Image of God stamped upon them.

**2. IN CHRIST WE ARE EQUALLY IN NEED AND IMPORTANT.** In a real sense we are all crippled in our own way whether in need spiritually, emotionally or socially. We need the help of fellow Christians, and we need the help of Christ. What

makes us all equal is our need and our brevity of life upon this earth. The truth is that even if we have the blessing of Jacob we are still crippled and must limp around the rest of our lives. The Pharisees from the Sanhedrin saw people as unequal through their creeds; Jesus sees people as equal through their needs. He asked them a very penetrating question, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day? Or to do evil? To save a life? Or to kill it?" They answered Jesus' question with silence. The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* says, "Then He asked the Pharisees a rhetorical question concerning which of two kinds of action was really consistent with the purpose of the Sabbath in the Mosaic Law. The obvious answer is: to do good and to save life (soul; cf. 8:35-36). Yet failure to use the Sabbath to meet this man's need (cf. 2:27) was to do evil (harmful misuse of its purpose) and, as ultimately happened, their malicious plotting on the Sabbath (cf. 3:6) led them to kill."

The religion of the Pharisees had made them so calloused to human need that they had lost one of the greatest qualities committed to man from the Image of God, the quality of compassion. I can't imagine, can you, people who have lost entirely their sense of caring? I really don't understand why people can be so inhuman in their treatment of others? Why do they do it? Have they lost the feeling of seeing themselves in the other person who is suffering? One of the first things I noticed after I got saved was that I loved others with a new and special kind of love. I even loved my enemies, which I could never have done without Jesus. I married my wife a few years after becoming a Christian, but I understand from some who have been saved during their married years, that when they truly met Christ, they were healed of their inability to love others, including their own spouses. I know the devil is strong in marriages, but I don't understand why Christian couples, cannot love one another in spite of their faults. Your husband, your wife, is equally in need, and equally important. Meet Jesus today and He will heal you of your problems.

You know, it occurs to me that one of our problems is that we are so familiar with others that we take them for granted. No doubt this man had been there many times before, and people had grown used to seeing him paralyzed in his right hand. Instead of treating him with compassion, they kind of just forgot about his need, or denied his need. Let us not make that mistake. Jesus never makes that mistake: In His House He Heals Us Socially.

#### **D. LAST OF ALL, IN HIS HOUSE, HE HEALS US PHYSICALLY.**

**1. HOW CONTROVERSIAL IT HAS BECOME THAT JESUS HEALS US PHYSICALLY.** In the *Interpreter's Bible Commentary* we find these words: "According to Jerome, the Gospel According to the Hebrews described the man as a mason, who depended on the use of his hands for a livelihood, and who begged Jesus to heal him lest he be compelled in shame to resort to begging. Luke adds that it was his right hand. His hand--or arm--was "dried up," i.e., withered, atrophied, lame, or in some way unusable." The point of the story is, however, that Jesus puts need above creed; and that in His house He heals physically. Most doctors will tell you that they treat the patient, but they do not heal. God works, usually, through the process of nature to heal the patient. In the life of our Lord, wherever He met physical or spiritual or social or emotional illness, He healed

it. Why the controversy? Jesus is the same today as He was yesterday. He still heals in His house.

In 1 Cor. 11, Paul tells the Corinthians that one of the reasons many are sick among them is that they have taken the Lord's Supper unworthily. Often (not always) our physical health is so related to our mental and spiritual health that to cure the one is to cure the other. The Early Church had a strong ministry of healing. This healing ministry never stopped, but was carried on long after the Apostles and the Apostolic Fathers. If Christ worked miracles in the synagogue, surely He works miracles in the Church.

I am a good example of Jesus healing. My basal artery was nearly totally blocked. I had numerous mini-strokes in Romania that carried over to my ministry in Pippa Passes. My MD daughter diagnosed me correctly after incorrect diagnoses by several other physicians. She suggested I have my family doctor send me to Lexington, Kentucky, for an MRA. In Lexington they found the blockage that caused my mini-strokes. They put me on cuomedin, aspirin, and other blood thinners that I have forgotten. I took them regularly, and prayed that God would heal me. Two years later I went back for another MRA and my blockage was totally gone. But before I went I prayed and believed with all my heart and mind that God had healed me. I let nothing interfere with that faith. And it was as I believed. I don't know why God heals some and doesn't heal others. I do know that healing always happens according to His will. For myself, God was faithful when I was faith-filled.

**2. IN HEALING THAT MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND GOD SHOWED THAT HE CAN AND WILL HEAL US PHYSICALLY.** There are two variables—Is it His will? Do I have the faith to be healed? Both variables are important. Sometimes God wants to call us home. Sometimes God wants us to be examples of those who, like Paul, suffer victoriously. Sometimes our prayers seem unanswered; but God always gives the right answer. I've always felt that if I have prayed believing, and if I should die believing without that prayer being answered, God would honor my faith in Heaven. Faith is never un-rewarded. But without faith it is impossible to please God—we must believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. In a word, we must believe that He can heal and that He will heal. He Can! He will!

I look at it like this—If Jesus healed this man with the withered hand, a man He apparently did not have a relationship with, since He is my Friend, and Savior, He will surely heal me. I go in that Faith.

The best place to be healed is in His house. He heals in His house. He heals spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically. Will you be made whole?