

2/8/09

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:29-39 page (*Jesus heals many and preaches in Galilee.*)

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

38 Jesus replied, "**Let us go somewhere else-- to the nearby villages-- so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.**"

39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

THE SERMON **“Cure or Healing - God’s Amazing Love for All”**

INTRO - Yesterday I read about a Dr. Manuel Padaroyal. He is the Columbian scientist who developed the first vaccine against malaria, which strikes 300 million people a year, and kills 3 million. This vaccine is a very valuable tool in the fight against this life-threatening disease.

I. Friends, as we gather today we have the most precious treasure this world has ever seen. We have the Savior Jesus.

A. First, this is the very Son of God, who left heaven in love to take our pain and sin upon Himself, to suffer and die, and to rise again.

1. Malaria may strike 300 million people, sin strikes everyone, and every dies, and faces possible eternal judgement for their sins.
2. Jesus offers forgiveness and eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.
3. Knowing Jesus so we can believe and receive eternal life is the most precious possession there is.

B. But, today our lesson shows that Jesus does not just care for our eternal welfare.

1. In today's lesson Jesus is not just doing the work of the Messiah, and saving people for eternal life, He is helping people with their daily pain and troubles, with their needs and concerns.
2. Jesus is acting in power and in love.
3. He is casting out demons, healing the ill, bringing the good news.

C. Scripture tells us that this powerful and loving Jesus is with His disciples always.

What a wonderful thing that we know that Jesus is not just there for us eternally, but He is there for us every day to help us with our earthly trials, hurts, and needs.

II. Today drug companies make millions and billions of dollars developing a medicine and then selling it to people in need. This system has encouraged many new and helpful medicines to be developed and in that way has helped many with new drugs. But what I read about Dr. Padaroyal is different. He says he is giving the vaccine to the world for free. From what I read, some think he crazy to pass up the monetary gain, and others think he is a saint. But He is not keeping it for himself, he is sharing this wonderful medical tool freely with others.

A. Sometimes we want to keep good things to ourselves. It may have seemed that way with the disciples and Jesus.

1. Jesus called Peter and Andrew as disciples, and they bring him to their home, where He heals Peter's mother-in-law. That's great for Peter's family.
2. Others in town hear about Jesus and at night the whole town shows up at Peter's door so Jesus can bring healing. Still, Jesus is staying at Peter's house, and taking care of Peter's town. That's still great for Peter and Andrew.
3. Imagine the surprise when Jesus says, **"Let us go somewhere else-- to the nearby villages-- so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."**

B. We can be thankful that even though Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, Jesus is not just for the Jews. God offers us His power and love for this Life, forgiveness and salvation eternally. How often are we content to keep him to

ourselves, in our family, our church, our town?

C. But, God also doesn't want us to keep this powerful loving, healing teacher, this savior of the world to ourselves.

1. Jesus tells his disciples that He came to go to other villages. Jesus came so the whole world may know and receive His love.
2. That means He came for people overseas we don't know, for people in Alaska who haven't heard about Jesus, even our neighbor who may not know about Jesus.
3. We share Jesus when we tell others about His sacrificial love, and loving power which He showed when He was on earth.
4. Perhaps harder yet, we share Jesus with others when we love them, help them, forgive them the way Jesus has loved us.

CONCLUSION - Imagine all the good Dr. Padaroyal will accomplish by sharing the malaria vaccine. Perhaps some of those saved may develop other cures or other tools to help people.

But, ultimately, in this sinful world, we all need a Savior. Thankfully, Jesus did not just come for one family, one church, one town, He came for the whole world.

Jesus calls us to receive His power and love, and to share Him with others. May His love in our lives move us to share His power and love with others.

THE PSALM AND THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Psalm 147:1-12

Lay Minister: 1 Praise the LORD.

People: How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Lay Minister: 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

People: 3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Lay Minister: 4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

People: 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Lay Minister: 6 The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

People: 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp.

Lay Minister: 8 He covers the sky with clouds;

People: he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

Lay Minister: 9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

People: 10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man;

Lay Minister: 11 the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

People: 12 Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

Lay Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever and ever.
Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY O God of compassion, You sent Your Son Jesus to move among Your people with healing for every hurt of life. Send Him among us with that same power to heal our sinful lives, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:21-31

(Do you not know? Have you not heard? God renews His people.)

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. 25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 *(Paul gives an example of service for the sake of the Gospel.)*

16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do

not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.