

and soul. Invite Jesus in, which drives the demonic away. One simple truth, Jesus and the devil don't live in the same house. And you are part of Jesus' house, the devil has no claim, has no reason for being around, he's trespassing.

As you're praying curse the illness and invite Jesus blessing. Invite the Spirit to lead you in prayer; asking what to reject and what blessing Jesus has. Proclaim Jesus' blessing, inviting the Spirit to be present, because he is wanted.

Ultimately Jesus is wanted simply for who he is. That reminds me of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who refused to bow down and worship the idol the king had made. They

were threatened with death by being thrown into the fire. Their response reflected that their faith in God didn't depend on him rescuing them from the fire. They trusted their God no matter what.

Jesus invites us to pray for the sick; so I'd encourage everyone to do it. Call those mature in the faith to come and pray for you. Anoint you with oil as a statement of faith – it is in the Anointed One we trust. The word Christ/Messiah means the 'Anointed One', he's the one whose power and authority we're invoking. Consecrate, pray specific, invite the

Spirit to show what might need to be exposed. Invite the Spirit into it, that the living presence of God is there. And keep praying, knowing God is with you.

And in and through it all seek the presence of Jesus, seek to be in his healing presence, knowing your sins are forgiven, knowing the hope of life and vitality that he promises, knowing you're not alone, but Jesus has sent the Spirit, you are his.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

29 October 2017

MOVING MOUNTAINS

Week 7: Healing Prayer



Today we continue our theme of prayer. Today we look at 'healing prayer'. I'm sure we've all sought God for healing, be it for someone we know or for ourselves. And Jesus' life story is full of healings; healing a leper, or a man born blind, or a woman bent over, or a cripple.

Did you notice that when Jesus walked the earth he didn't heal everyone? Have you noticed that everyone dies? Jesus ultimate act of heal, which is open to everyone who comes to him, is resurrection. When Jesus returns his great promise is to raise all those who believe in him to new life, life lived in a wonderful personal bond with him. In Jesus we'll be healed beyond our wildest dreams. I'm looking forward to that.

Outside of Jesus, we're left to our own devices,

to do the best we can. One important role sickness plays in life is that it exposes my impotence to achieve the life I yearn for. Left to myself I don't come anywhere near what Jesus dreams possible.

Sickness reveals the reality that we live in a broken world and we don't have what it takes to change it. Sickness forces us to look outside ourselves for help. And the ultimate healer is Jesus; for Jesus not only heals the sickness he heals the cause.

One of the greatest areas of healing is when Jesus restores the broken soul, the crushed heart. In life we do sustain wounds to our soul, we do suffer brokenness to our hearts.

These, to me, reflect most clearly the cause of all sickness, our

broken relationship with God. In Adam and Eve, humanity walked away from God thinking they could do better, and ever since then we've been left with a broken heart. We've been left with wounds that only the loving presence of God can truly heal.

For Jesus hasn't simply come to mask pain, or give us a few moments of pain relief. Jesus comes, God in person, to create an intimate, loving relationship of trust and affection. Jesus has come, God in person, to breathe his life giving presence into us. The ultimate healing, for the cause of sickness goes back to this broken relationship.

Sickness reveals to me my brokenness, my impotence, my desire to be loved, valued, wanted, appreciated, but left to myself I'm

always seeking but never finding. Always pour into my soul but forever feeling that I need more. Feeling good for a while, but it soon drains away.

Sickness reveals that left to ourselves we don't have what it takes to make the world the place we know it could, or even should be.

When Jesus heals, he's pointing us to himself as the one who can and will recreate this world to be the place he knows it can be. In

fact Jesus dreams leave our desires in the dust; he's got so much more in store for this world than mere world peace. Jesus dream is a world that is flooded with his Father's loving presence, so that we become the children of God he births us to be.

When Jesus heals, he's doing more than pain relief, he's pointing to himself as the true healer for he doesn't simply deal with the symptoms, he's come and healed the cause. Jesus healing isn't

putting a band ad on, but it shows he is the one who heals the cause; which is our desire to play god and do it ourselves, the desire to be independent of God but having deep, deep wounds because of the love we so desire but can never find outside of him.

When Jesus heals, he's doing more than pain relief.

When Jesus heals it always points to the cause and the ultimate healing he offers. Cause if all that happens is you're healed today and die tomorrow and are left for eternity with a broken heart and crushed spirit, not much has been achieved.

Sadly I've witnessed that; I've prayed for people in hospital who were sick. They desired healing. They were going to follow Jesus when they got out of hospital. But once well, they went back to the

same old way of life, they went back to depending on themselves, waiting for the inevitable decline of their health followed by their death. Nothing changed, they were still on the trajectory of hell.

Jesus does invite us to pray for healing; it's one of the signs that he's who he claims to

be. Jesus is the Messiah, the chosen one of God, come to heal us.

Come to bring us back into a healthy and whole relationship with

God, that we live with him as our Father, knowing we are his loved children, whom he cherishes and breathes his life giving presence into.

Remember Adam only became a living person when God breathed his life giving presence into him. What has Jesus done at Pentecost? Breathed God's life giving presence into us, for that is the source of life, of health, of vitality.

Jesus invites us to pray for healing, just as he did. In James' letter he writes; "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:14,15 NIV)

Notice we pray in Jesus' name; that means using his power and authority.

So we are encouraged to begin by using the prayer of consecration; for ourselves and the person we're praying for.

We are inviting Jesus to pour his life giving presence into this person in a way that will create health. So it is a good way to begin reminding ourselves of who we are and whose we are.

Jesus is our king, the one we rely on, the one we look to for

everything. We're not rebels seeking to go off and do our own thing. We're not simply using Jesus to get what we want. No, in Jesus, we are Father's loved children, whom he delights in. In Jesus we are holy ground, because through Jesus death on the cross he has claimed us as his own.

Consecrate Be Specific Invoke life of Jesus

And through the waters of baptism all that Jesus won through his death and resurrection has been given to us. We are his. We find our identity in Jesus. In him we have purpose and worth. So we begin with a prayer of consecration. I'm not out to do my own thing but I'm seeking to follow Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

In the process be specific and ask Jesus what areas need to be brought to light.

Through the whole time, seek to be specific in what you're asking Jesus to heal.

Then invoke the life of God, invoke the life force of God into the afflicted body to restore it. This is the power that raised Jesus from the dead, that power that gives life to and sustains all creation.

And give it time; God took seven days to create everything. So take time, talking with the Spirit, listening to his lead, invoking

the power of Jesus. Take time, proclaim the truths Jesus has made known; like, you are part of the temple of God where the Holy Spirit dwells.

And as you are praying watch for signs of what God is doing.

Ask Jesus if there is any underlying demonic force which is wanting to make a claim on that person. Probe, and invite Jesus in. Invite Jesus into the pain and hurt, invite Jesus into your heart