

February 4, 2024

Jesus Heals the Hurting

by Ken Weliever

My facebook friend and preaching colleague, Doy Moyer, is careful student of the Word and an excellent writer. Today, without comment, we offer one of his recent facebook posts that has a universal appeal for all our readers.

The late James P. Miller used to advise preacher boys, "When you don't know what to preach, preach to the hurting. There's one on every pew." He's right. In fact, there may be more than one. In this spirit, we offer Doy's thoughtful and scriptural piece.

The world in which we live is filled with heartache and pain. This is part of the corruption experienced by humanity due to the problem of sin (Gen 3). Things in this world are not as they were initially created to be, and we know things need to be made right. Our bodies ache and our emotions are torn; we fight both physical and mental battles and sometimes wonder when this will end. We ask, with Paul, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Rom 7:4). We all feel the sting of sin and living in a body of death.

Paul's question, though, is not without an answer or hope, and he immediately exclaims, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (v. 25). Jesus is the answer to this hurting world, the only One who can deliver us from sin, death, pain, and suffering. He is the great Healer in every way.

When we ask why Jesus came into this

world, we might find various ways to answer this question. He came to die for sin (1 John 2:1). He came to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:44-45). He came to point the way back to the Father (John 14:6). He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He came to give the abundant life (John 10:10). He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He came to defeat death through the resurrection (Heb 2:14; 1 Cor 15). All of this and more can describe the reason for the incarnation of the Son of God.

The focus here is that Jesus was born into this world to heal the hurting, and we all need this. While He heals through the forgiveness of sins, there is more to consider. We need forgiveness, but we also need comfort and peace from the anxieties, hardships, and suffering that this world holds. Think of how Paul begins his second epistle to the Corinthians: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Cor 1:3-4).

Jesus came to provide the path back to the comfort that can only come from the Lord. When He began His public ministry in Nazareth, Jesus quoted from Isaiah's messianic passage (Luke 4:16-18; Isa 61:1-2):

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, February 13 at 10 a.m.

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, February 23-25

Our Next Gospel Meeting is scheduled for March 24-27 with David Raif

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

“He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed...”

Jesus then uses the analogy of a physician, and the events that followed included healings. While the healings have implications for forgiveness (spiritual healing), they also pointed to the fact that all healing ultimately comes from God. Salvation is bigger than forgiveness of sins alone. It is, finally, deliverance from all the turmoils and trials of this world. It is deliverance both physically and spiritually, for in the end, because of what Jesus did, we may attain to the resurrection of life.

Paul yearned for the resurrection. He counted all things but rubbish “because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” He suffered the loss of all things so that he may be found in Him. Why? “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead” (Phil 3:8-11).

Jesus brings us levels of healing and comfort now, but final healing and comfort comes in the resurrection. We aren't there yet, but this is our living hope (1 Pet 1:3-5). This is the full victory for which we long: “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:57). This is why we can be comforted and find healing when we lose loved ones in the Lord. Though we sorrow and grieve, it is not as others “who have no hope” (1 Thess 4:13). Jesus will come yet again and bring with Him the saints who have gone on before. Encouragement and comfort comes from knowing this (1 Thess 4:18). We can share in the peace that passes understanding (Phil 4:6-7).

Then, as we experience the final consummation of all things in the new heavens and new earth, we will know healing in its fullest sense: “He will wipe

away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Rev 21:1-4).

Jesus came to heal the hurting, and that hurt may run deep. But there is nothing so beyond repair that the Lord cannot touch it. Let us fear the Lord, then, that “the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings” (Mal 4:2).

Come, Lord Jesus!

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Debbie McMurray is isolating at home after her therapies and compromised immune system.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister's home

Elaine Kersh is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Sylvia Stinnett broke her wrist and had surgery.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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