

Title: The Great Physician

Text: Matthew 9:1-13

Will you open your Bibles, please, to Matthew chapter 9. The Gospel of Matthew chapter 9. There are notes in your bulletin. Let us use them as we study the Word of God together. Matthew 9 verse 1..

(Matthew 9:1-13)

(would you join me for a moment of prayer)

I would like you to notice that there are several characteristics in this passage <sup>about</sup> of the Great Physician. The hymn writer says that the "Great Physician now is near, the sympathizing saviour." And one of the great lessons and teaching of this portion of scripture is THE LOVE AND COMPASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO IS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN.

Today, I want to share with you five characteristics of Jesus. And I hope they will be characteristics that will be precious to you. And perhaps even transform your life.

1) The first characteristic that I see is found in Vs. 2. The Bible says, "and behold, they brought to him a paralytic." It occurs to me that the first characteristic I learn, here, and I learn throughout all the Gospels, is that the great physician <sup>Cares</sup> has ~~compassion~~ <sup>Cares</sup> for all people.

You see, Jesus <sup>cared</sup> ~~was concerned~~ about this paralytic. He was on a bed. We don't know how long he had been there. But, perhaps for many years. He was well know because in the Gospel of Luke it tells us that four men carried him to Jesus. As a matter of fact, Luke tells us that those four men tore up the roof of a house and they lowered this man through the roof in front of Jesus. And Jesus saw their faith. And that caused him to act <sup>on Behalf of</sup> ~~for~~ this pralytic.

Matthew does not record that part of the story. But four men brought this man to Jesus.

You know, it is wonderful to bring folks to Jesus. Andrew brought his bother to Jesus. Often times in the Bible we read about people bringigg people to Jesus. Philpp did the same thing. As the Greek said: "Sir, we would see Jesus." Philip brought them to Jesus. *That is the great need of this world* We need to bring folks to Jesus. So often, we talk about everything under the sun. But we fail to bring folks to Jesus Christ. The answer ~~and~~ to the needs of the world is not society bettering itself, it is not changing your ~~enviornment~~, *IT IS NOT MORE POLICY OR STREET IT IS NOT MORE LAWS* (it is bringing ~~them~~ folks to Jesus. Because ~~he~~ *Jesus* is the Great physician. He can meet the problem in your life, ~~and in mine~~. And he loves everyone. He Cares for all ~~men~~ *people*. Regardless of who they are.

I notice this again down in Verses 10 and 11. Many of us would not associate with these people. The Bible tells us that Jesus was eating in their house. Vs 10 "behold, many tax-gatherers and sinners came and joined Jesus and His disciples at the table."

Now, you must understand something. A tag-collector in that day was dispised and hated by the Jews. It was a sign of Roman oppression. And they often took more money from the Jews then they were suppose to. A tax-collector was not given any salary by the Romon government. So, in order to make their wages they would tax over and beyond what the Roman government required. And you can imagine how often this was violated. The Roman government allowed this. ~~And~~ as a result most tax-collectors were wealth men. They became wealth as a result of unjust taxation of the people.

Matthew, was a man like that. And very few would associate with these men. The Jews hated them. They dispised them. And yet, Jesus was with the tax-collectors

The Bible says that he was also *acting* with sinners. Now, all Folks ~~men~~ are sinners according to the bible. But here is a technical word, a technical phrases refering to people who were deep in sin....People who because of there sin ~~was~~ *was* cast~~s~~ out-off society....

XX  
only  
acting  
Folks

And these folks were setting and eating with Jesus...

Folks, I believe that if we are going to ~~change our world~~ <sup>reach people</sup> for Christ we need something of the same ~~compassion~~ <sup>concern</sup>. I pray it for my own heart. I pray it for your heart.

*I am told that there will be*

190 thousand people ~~were~~ born into the world today. The world population is increasing at a fantastic rate. And I am told that 3/4 of that number will starve tonight. It is amazing the needs of the world. And we sit so comfortable by. ~~It~~ We sit in our comfort here in Taft and we often resent a moment of participation in others needs. We even resent given any financial help. Let alone any personal attention. There are so many needs all around us.

*any*

Jesus was concerned. And ~~lets~~ I wonder how much we really are concerned about people around us. People in need <sup>of Subst</sup>. People all over who need christ. All around us. Neighbros and friends. We meet them every day. And it is so easy to look inward as a christian. To even think, as wonderful as it is, about our <sup>own spiritual</sup> growth in Christ. And that is wonderful. And we ought to grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, if we are growing in Christ, we can't help but participate in some of that <sup>concern</sup> compassion and love that <sup>Jesus</sup> he had for ~~all men~~ <sup>FOLK who are lost in sin</sup>.

I see this in this passage. And it greatly moves my heart. He associated with people in need <sup>of Subst</sup>. And often times I find that Christians don't even know many non-christians. We don't even associate with them. So, how can we win them for christ. To neglect them, to isolate yourself in little groups or Bible studies is beyond the bounds of the New Testament. Christians represent the body of Christ.

*my*

If someone <sup>now</sup> were to ask me: "Where is ~~your~~ church today?" I would say, "They are at work today. There in shops. There in markets. There out in the oil fields. There in business. There in homes....This isn't the church...We gather together in a location for united purposes and study and seeing people publical confess their faith and identify themselves with christ. But <sup>been found</sup> ~~works~~ we must go out where the lost are....We must have the <sup>concern</sup> love and ~~compassion~~ for people. ~~We must associate with non christians and~~

We must associate with non-christians and tell them about the Gospel of Jesus christ. How many people do you know by name? People that you have invited into your home and shared a meal with? How many of them have you shared the gospel with? *How many of them have you invited to church* Oh..how we need to love people. Jesus associated with the sinners of society.

(2 ) The second characteristic I notice about the Great Physician in this passage is that His <sup>Forgiveness</sup> pardon comes to all people. *Praise God*

In Vs. 2, the Bible says, "Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "take courage, my son; your sins are forgiven."

Now, notice, this man needed to be healed, physical. He had a physical problem. And Jesus saw that problem and dealt with it. But, first, Jesus dealt with the real need in his life which was sin. *Your sins are forgiven you*  
*Do you see?*  
 Dear friends, the real need in the lives of people is sin. Oh, you may have a physical problem. You may want physical healing. But, you know, physical healing is only temporary. We still will die. But, spiritual healing, our real need, is for all eternity. The greatest need of all people is to have forgiveness of sin. *→ 2 Tim 4:3* Whether you realize that or not. Your greatest need is to have your sins forgiven.

In the book of Hebrews chapter 9 it says that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. *you see, if* Dear friends, it wasn't for the death of Jesus on the cross, He couldn't offer you forgiveness. Do you really see and understand your great need? What is it like inside of that life of yours? Is sin in your life? Then come to Jesus.

The Bible says that the blood of Jesus Christ continually cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7). And we must believe that. We must put our faith in that fact. Jesus offers to you complete forgiveness of sin. And the greatest thing that will keep you out of heaven is sin..sin

The Bible says that every person is born into sin. And Jesus offers to you His forgiveness and cleansing from sin. That is what Jesus dealt with here. "Your sins are forgiven."

*and that is what the church needs to deal with the message of forgiveness*

(3 ) Then there is a third characteristic about the great physician. You will find it in verses 4 ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> 5. The Bible says, "Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? For which is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, "rise and walk?'"

And the thing I noticed about the Great Physican is His perception of all people and what they are thinking.

Do you know that God knows what you are thinking right now? He is fully aware of all your thoughts. The Bible says that "all things are ~~nake~~ <sup>open</sup> and ~~open~~ unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to deal." God knows what we are thinking. The Bible tells us that the Word of God is a critic. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of our hearts. God knows what we are thinking.

You know, some times I get a little upset about how Jesus is watered down by people. They make Jesus so human that they forget His diety. I want to say here, today, just in case you have never heard me say it before....JESUS IS THE GOD WHO CREATED THE UNIVERSE. JESUS IS GOD IN HUMAN FLESH.

And He knows what is in your life. He knows our thoughts and motives. He knows all things. He is the beginning and the end. The Apha and the Omega.

The Bible says "that all things are from Him, all things are through Him, and all things will return unto him. (Romans 11:36)

You see, all things are from Jesus. He knows your heart. He knows what we are thinking. And we cannot hide from Him.

That effected Daniel Webster so much that He said: "the greatest thought that he ever had in his life was his personal accountability to a God who knew his heart."

God knows our heart. He knows our real need. And we cannot hide from Him. And one day we will have to face Him with everything we have done..said... and thought. For the Bible says that not one idle word will pass his judgment.

Dear friends, the Great Physican can heal us of all sin. Because He knows our need. He knows what we are thinking. He knows our real motives. And He <sup>can</sup> give us a clean mind and a clean heart.

(4 ) There is a fourth characteristic that I would like to share with you.

Jesus said in Vs. 6: "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," then, He heals the man of his physical illness. And the thing that I notice about the Great Physican is that He has power for all people.

What is it like to have power? I believe in this case as it relates to this personal experience here in Matthew 9, it was forgiveness of sins. This man was a paralytic. And notice, it was an instaneous healing. The Bible tells us in the Gospel of Luke that this man just shouted with joy and praised God. He was so excited. He had expereinced the power of God..physical and spiritually. He was thrilled.

But, I, also, notice in this passage the power of God upon the multitude. Vs 8 says, "But when the multitude saw this, they were filled with awe, and glorified God."

The phrase "filled with awe" literally means they "were afraid." They were scared to death. And they glorified God who had given such power unto men.

Luke says, "filled with fear" . And because of that fear they glorified God. Boy, what an effect God's power had upon the multitude.

And you know, when you come to know forgiveness of sins and God heals you of your spiritual sickness, it has an effect upon the multitudes. Folks who see your life transformed in a moment of time, or, over a gradual period as you grow in Christ, Folks are amazed at the power of God.

And so often as Christians we fold up within our selves and forget that the power of God that gave forgiveness, is the same power that is available to every christian. The power of Christ in an individual life. And it can have a tremendous effect upon the multitudes.

But, do you know what the basic problem is? Most of us try to put out, or ~~or~~ quench or surpress the power of God in us by our own selfish interest. We have no compassion like the Great phsyican. We have no concern about the world around us. And we don't have on our hearts what is on God's heart. Consequently his power is not being used in our lives. Even though it is available. The power of God and its tremendous effect on the multitudes. They were ~~afraid~~ <sup>filled with awe</sup> and they glorified God.

(5) There is a final characteristic that I would like to share with you about the Great phsyican. And that is the GREAT COMMISSION.

This is Verse 10 - 13. <sup>The purpose of Jesus Christ for you is</sup> ~~His purpose for all people~~ is clearly revealed.

Notice Vs 10: "And it happened that as He was reclining at table in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and joined Jesus and His disciples at the table. AND WHEN THE PHARISEES SAW THIS.....

You know my friends, I have said this before. But I believe that if a Pharisees joined this church we would say that he was the finest christian in the world...

You see, a pharisee was a man above reproach. He was true and respected in his society. He was well acquainted with the O.T. scriptures. He believed in the power of God. He believed in the resurrection. The Pharisees were outstanding in their moral life.

Oh. Yes, they were ritualist. Yes, they were external. <sup>and</sup> But, my friends, most of us are too.

~~and~~ The Pharisees would <sup>not</sup> associated with the tax-collector and sinners lest they defile themselves. <sup>Their</sup> ~~There~~ whole point was that things are external not internal.

Jesus said to <sup>his followers</sup> ~~that~~ very group: "Unless <sup>unless</sup> your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." <sup>you see,</sup> We must have something more than external righteousness. And no matter how many good ~~all~~ works you say you have....."God, I have done all these things. Willn't you accept me now?".....NO.....You can not earn your way to heaven. It was the Pharisees who did not understand the purposes of God.

And many, many <sup>christians</sup> ~~of us~~, today, do not understand the purposes of God. What is ~~He~~ doing? Jesus was eating with these out cast of society. And in Vs 12 when He heard the comment of the Pharisees <sup>He</sup> said this: "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are ill."

You know, you must see your need before God is going to help you. They that are sick. Not those who are well. Vs 13...."But go and <sup>learn</sup> learn what this means."....Notice, he is talking to the Pharisees ...."I desire ~~mercy~~ <sup>Compassion</sup> ~~empathy~~, and not sacrifice..) MERCY is what God gives. It is that which he gives which we do not deserve. Mercy involves his pardon, his forgiveness from our sins. He is giving that. We cannot earn it.

Sacrifice is something we bring <sup>to God</sup>. And of course <sup>you</sup> ~~he~~ is referring to the O.T. And the Pharisees just loved sacrifices. They would bring them constantly. They were so faithful and they never missed a day. But, Jesus said "I desire <sup>Compassion</sup> ~~mercy~~, not sacrifice."

What I want to do as the Great Physician in your life is something that you cannot do. It is not something that you can earn. It is something that I give to you. <sup>I give you my Compassion - Some translations use the word 'mercy'</sup>

Vs 13, "I did not come to call the righteous, but the sinners." to repentence."

The word "repentence" does not mean "to be sorrow about our sins!" It means a "change of life; of heart, of attitude." It means I was going one way and God meet me, and I turned around and now I am going another way.



→ When you truly repent - YOU STOP THE SIN YOU WERE DOING

Repentence means "turning from sin and turning towards God." Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous. But I have come to call sinners to repentence."

SOFTLY

And what a tremendous play on words. Those Pharisees were so proud of their righteousness. And Jesus's point is this: I have not come to call righteous men. He was putting a finger on the sore spot... They thought they were acceptable to God in their self righteousness. But, they were sinners. And Jesus calls the sinners to repentence.

Just like anyone else

And the thing that really comes home to me in this passage is the great purpose of Christ... He has come to call sinners to repentence.

And I thought of my own life. Many of us in our motivation do not have His purpose. And thus we don't witness to many folks....

You know

In Luke 19:10 Jesus stated it very clearly: The son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And then Jesus said right before his ascension: "AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO DO I SEND YOU."..... And throughout the N.T. we read that the Father sent the son to seek and to save that which was lost. His purpose was to win men unto himself. To give them forgiveness of sins. And he says, "AS MY FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO DO I SEND YOU...."

a demand

to win

Now let's say

In our attitude of life, do we have the purpose of the Great Physician? It is to win people to Christ. Is that your purpose? Is that the purpose of this church?

Jesus' Father - seek

purpose of this church

My friend, if you are here today, and you say, "Yes, pastor, I am burdened about my sins. I recognize there is a need in my life. I know that I am sick. I am sick of myself and all my attempts to have meaning to life and to have happiness. And I don't know the power of God. And I don't know for sure that I would go to heaven if Jesus would come today. I have no assurance of forgiveness of sin."

and

Friend, if that is you today, I want to tell you that the Great Physician is here to heal you, to cleanse you from your sin. To give you complete forgiveness if you would only accept him and believe him. Trust him now. Invite him, now, to come into your life. And if you do, He will heal you just as quickly as he did this paralytic.

purpose of this church - to win people to Christ

But, if you are a christian, I hope God's purpose for all mankind will be firmly planted upon <sup>your</sup> minds. <sup>By the H.S.</sup> That we might stop <sup>playing</sup> church. ~~this morning.~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~And that we might~~ start calling sinners to repentence. To seek and to save that which was lost. And we might start making ourselves available to God to do what he wants to do. <sup>Dear</sup> friends, let's get His purpose ~~on~~ <sup>as</sup> our hearts. ~~May~~ God speak to us... *let us respond!*

And ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> Christians who are burden down with their own sin, may you come back to ~~the~~ <sup>you</sup> the great Physician. The Great Physician can heal ~~you~~ <sup>you</sup>. He can cleanse ~~us~~ <sup>you</sup>. And the Bible says that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us look to the Lord in prayer

~~In the Name of the Father - The Son - The Holy Spirit~~

\* inviting people to come to Christ - inviting people to come to church - Then praying for them - They repencing when they walk the road giving their heart and life to Jesus