



"The Way"

Session 2 – The Healing Ministry, Capernaum

March 3, 2024

4:00 PM

This afternoon, we are going to look at the "Healing Ministry" of Jesus. On multiple occasions, Jesus called out "demons" from individuals in scripture. As we begin, spend a few moments in silence, calling to mind the kinds of "demons" that have tormented you – demons such as anger, laziness, worry, prejudice, envy, guilt, jealousy, etc. I will close our time of prayer in just a moment...

Opening Prayer

Lord God, we seem so surrounded by demons. Some are demons over which we have no control. Others we have brought upon ourselves by choices we have made. But we know, Lord, that no demons can affect us without your knowledge. And we know, Lord, that all demons of every sort are subject to your power and love. Forgive us, Lord, for dwelling upon the demons rather than upon you, the answer to the demons that seems to torment us. Forgive us, Lord, for trying every other means of overcoming our demons before we learn to trust you and rely upon prayer. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to think that some demons may be beyond our control. As we learn about your healing this afternoon, may we confess that we too need your healing! We offer this prayer in the name of the one who cast out demons and who will rid us of our demons if we only rely upon him, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Session 2 – From Nazareth to Capernaum

Let's Read Luke 4:14-31

Looking at the map of Capernaum.

Why might Jesus have chosen Capernaum as his "headquarters" for ministry?

Session 2 Video – The Healing Ministry

Follow Up Questions...

- Did the town of Capernaum on the video look like you expected a town in biblical times to look?
- What surprised you about what you saw of the town of Capernaum?
- Thinking about the pictures of the synagogue. What did you notice about the way it was built?
- Hamilton says that he feels close to Jesus as he walks through Capernaum. What places in your life give you a feeling of closeness to Christ?

Scripture Focus: Jesus' Healing of the Man with the Unclean Spirit

Let's Read Mark 1:21-28.

- Why do you think the people of Capernaum were astounded at the teachings of Jesus?
- Do you think they were positively astounded or negatively astounded? Why?

Just as those who were less than whole could not enter the Temple in Jerusalem, so they were prohibited from entering the local synagogue. We can probably assume that this man was a local resident, known by the men of Capernaum, and believed to have mental problems.

- Why did the man risk his life by going into the synagogue, where he was not welcome because of his malady?
- How do you think the men in the synagogue responded when the man walked in?

- How might a congregation of our day react if a person known to be mentally ill wandered into the middle of a worship service and started a commotion?
- Why and how did the evil spirit acknowledge Jesus to be the Christ, the Holy One of God, when this was not apparent to anyone else at the time?
- What does this say about Jesus and demons? What does it say about the demons that torment people in our day and age, and about Jesus in our time?

Modern Day Demons

Hamilton points out the demons still assault us today. Some are of our own making; some are not.

- What kind of demons infect us today?
- Which of these demons are of our own creation and which are demons over which we have no control and never had any control?
- Do demons only infect us individually, or do demons infect whole groups of people, perhaps even nations?
- How do you think Jesus would react to the demons that infect us today?

Hamilton writes, “Each of us hears voices at times calling us – the voice of the Spirit calling us to do right, the voice of darkness seeking to defeat us, destroy us or simply lure us toward the darkness...Following the voices on the dark side...leads only to pain.”

Scripture Focus: Jesus' Healing of the Paralyzed Man

Let's Read Mark 2:1-12.

- Who, besides Jesus, is the hero of this story?
- How can you be a stretcher-bearer for a person who seems paralyzed – either physically, emotionally, spiritually, or economically?
- What does the fact that Jesus healed this man because of his friends' faith say about his healing ministry? About the power of corporate faith?

Wrap Up

Clearly, while Jesus sought to relieve suffering of every kind – mental, emotional, and spiritual as well as physical – he took every opportunity doing so to teach people about the Kingdom of God. Reading the miracle stories and being amazed at the compassion of Jesus is not the end in itself; the task to which Jesus calls us is learning to be disciples who live out that same kind of compassion. Each one of us must be a stretcher-bearer for others. For in doing so, we will love as Jesus first loved us.

Answer the following question this week...

- How can I be a stretcher-bearer for another person this week?

Closing Prayer

Let us close by praying together the familiar prayer by St. Francis...

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



Session 3 – Calming the Storm, The Sea of Galilee

Sunday, March 10 5:00 PM

Chapter 4 in the Book
