



Sermon, Sunday July 16, 2023 "Jesus Heals the Sick at Gennesaret"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 6:53-56 ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Introduction: The most important question of writer of the Gospels - "Who is Jesus?"

Today is the 7th Sunday after Pentecost. In the last sermon, I talked about the benefits of having a life that includes an intimate relationship with the Lord through regular prayer. By the way, the other axis in the Christian life of faith is to read, meditate on, and apply the words of the Bible to life every day. We need to know what the important core message of the Bible is.

The Bible gives us the answer to the question "Who is Jesus?" If we have read and meditated on the Bible correctly, we should be able to agree with the claims of the Bible about the question "Who is Jesus?" Also, we need the help of the Holy Spirit to agree with the Bible's answer to that question. The Bible speaks of Jesus as the Son of God, the Son of David, the Lord, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Today's text shows the Gospel writer's clear perspective on the question "Who is Jesus?" According to today's text, the place where Jesus and his companions arrived after crossing the Sea of Galilee was Gennesaret. Gennesaret, where Jesus and his party arrived, is a plain that stretches 3 miles long and 1 mile wide between Capernaum and Tiberias, northwest of the Sea of Galilee.

However, according to Mark 6:54 in today's text, people who recognized Jesus came to Him to be healed of their illnesses. The ministry of Jesus during his public life was largely twofold. The first was to teach people what the kingdom of God is, and the second was to heal the demon-possessed and the sick. The gospel writers who experienced the ministry of Jesus clearly testify that Jesus is the one who saves the human spirit and body. Do you agree with the Gospel writer's idea that Jesus is the one who saves men's minds and bodies?

Body: Where does our gaze stay?

Today's text is concise about the healing ministry that Jesus did in Gennesaret. **Mark 6:56 says; "Wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed."**

This verse shows that Jesus was unable to pray for each one of them because so many sick people flocked to Him. So the people who gathered to be healed by Jesus asked Him to allow them to touch even the fringe of his cloak with their hands. Today's text says that those who touched the fringe of his cloak were surprisingly restored to health.

In fact, many other passages in the Gospels describe Jesus' healing ministry. However, today's text is different from them. Mark 1:21-28 tells the story of Jesus healing a demon-possessed man. Mark 2:1-12 tells



the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man. In Mark 5:25-34, there is a story of healing a woman suffering from an issue of blood.

By the way, the above passages include the conversation between Jesus and those who were healed, the response of those who wanted to be healed, Jesus' praise for the faith of those who came to be healed, and Jesus' blessings.

However, these parts are not described in today's text. Today's text simply says that all those who touched the fringe of his cloak were healed.

In fact, today's people have two main attitudes toward Jesus' healing ministry. The first is to think that Jesus' healing method is too magical. The second is to think that we must take the words of the Bible literally as they are in the Bible.

By the way, what the writer of the Gospel wants to convey through the text today is the fact that it is Jesus who made such healing possible, not the disease of those who came to be healed.

For the Gospel writers 2,000 years ago, it was important to heal the sick, the disabled, and the demon-possessed to prove to people that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. The people mentioned by the writers of the Gospels were the most marginalized in society. Jesus had mercy on them. And He visited their lives and became their light.

By the way, it is not only those who are socially marginalized that need the Lord. Everyone needs the salvation of Jesus. In fact, we who are sitting in this church today are no different than those desperate people trying to touch Jesus' cloak. Are you uncomfortable with my analogy?

My personal confession is that my existence is as desperate as the sick person in today's text. When I pray to the Lord, I often confess, "**Lord, have mercy on me!**" I am not ashamed of this confession, because I know I cannot exist without the help of the Lord.

Perhaps someone will ask me: "**Pastor! Do you have financial difficulties? Are there problems with relationships between people? Do you have difficulties with your children? Or are you sick?**" My answer to these questions is: "**I am not well off financially, but with the help of the Lord I am doing well. There are times when I have difficulties because of relationships between people, but I am solving them well with the wisdom of the Lord. Also, my children are growing well by the grace of the Lord. And I have faith that the Lord will take care of my health. So I am not worried.**"

What I want to ask you through my confession is if there is an urgency for the Lord in our hearts.

In fact, urgency doesn't usually develop unless we're struggling financially, are sick, or are facing intractable problems in our life. So, if we do not have financial difficulties, are healthy, and do not have any special problems in our life, we do not feel the urgency toward the Lord.

However, our desperate hearts should be able to turn to the Lord regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. Because human beings need the Lord's saving hand without exception.

The last verse of today's text is "**all who touched it were healed.**" This verse simply means that the salvation light from Jesus Christ has been passed on to those in need of healing.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

As we read and meditate on the words of the Bible, I hope that we seriously think about the question of the Bible, "Who is Jesus?" Many passages in the Gospels tell the story of Jesus' healing. What do we expect of Jesus as we encounter the healings recorded in the Bible? Does our gaze stay on the healing event itself? Or does our gaze stay on Jesus who performed the healing?

Conclusion: I hope we will seek and look to the Lord with urgency toward Him.



Now let's summarize today's message. Mark 10:46-52 tells the story of Jesus healing the blind man Bartimaeus. This incident is a miracle that Jesus performed right before He was killed on the cross. Bartimaeus exclaimed with earnestness, **“Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me.”**

Also, in the last part of Mark 6:56 in today's text, it says, "All who touched his cloak were healed." This passage says that the desperate seeker's hand reached out to the character of Jesus, to the Word he proclaimed to the world, and to his light. At that time, humans will receive healing and salvation.

Please do not forget. All human beings in this world, without exception, need the Lord's saving hand. Regardless of the circumstances in our lives, we must be able to seek and look to the Lord with a desperate heart.

