

## Healing, Praise and Worship

Sermon by Mr. Raymond Hubert October 14, 2007

Our scriptures today have a common theme, one of challenges, redemption, praise and worship. The psalmist and Luke both speak of either challenges or illnesses. And there were many ill people back in those time's. They, like many of us, were sick, not just physically sick, but spiritually ill as well. Remember, Jesus said he came to heal the sick, the infirmed.

Some of those in Jesus' time were outcasts. Can you be more outcast than a leper? They were excluded from society, considered unclean, living away from others, having to beg unless they had family to provide for them. They faced insurmountable challenges, which we can not even begin to fathom.

Now let me ask you what challenges are you facing today? Is your challenge a physical challenge, such as health problems, or is it a spiritual challenge? How about they are both one and the same. Spiritual in the sense that you need to have Gods help to fix it. Our challenges are God's challenges. Regardless of the severity of our problem, what allows us to overcome that problem is our dependence on God. That is what makes the difference. We can learn to depend on him, by going to him in faithfulness. I mean, isn't that what those lepers were doing.... Going to Jesus with Faith. When they saw Jesus, they cried out to him "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Stop and think what were they asking for? They could have just been begging for food or money, did they know that it was his plan to heal them? He didn't heal them immediately remember; he told them to go show themselves to the priests. It was when they were obedient to Jesus and left him to go to the priests that they were healed. When we go to God, are we not asking for that same mercy? We ask for God to help us in our times of challenge. That's where prayer comes in. We go to him in prayer not expecting anything but mercy. Agape, that all encompassing love the God has for us. That's all we should be expecting. Love .... And strength to deal with what his will is. Remember the lords prayer, Our father....thy will be done. That's how I expect the healing love, by allowing his will to be done. Its that love of God that gives me healing for my problems, whether they are solved in the way I want them to be or not.

Our verse from the book of Luke, tells then of one of the ten lepers who turned back and praised Jesus. What happened to the other nine? Great question.. Have you ever wondered at the ingratitude of some people? Have you ever forgotten to say "Thank You"? Those nine did not return to say thanks, they did not fall on their face at the feet of Jesus, they did not return to give glory to God, they simply went on their way to be certified clean and then went on with their lives. Some gratitude huh? What about the one who did say thanks. He was made whole and acceptable, able to return to his family, his friends, society.. a life. Here was a foreigner, remember he was a Samaritan. He was a sick outcast, who when he found that he was made well immediately turned around and thanked Jesus for being made well. He went to Jesus and laid himself at his feet. He

praised him and God, by saying he is great, by acknowledging that the power of God is what had healed him. It's common manners isn't it, to say thank you. Is it not even more deserving to say thank you to God who makes all things possible, just as the Samaritan did at Jesus' feet. He wants that from us, to give him praise where praise is due. It brings me to something that I thought about as I writing this message. We have in our congregation at least one person who has been healed from an illness that they were not expected to survive, that being Hope Clark. As many of you may recall, she was very sick and frankly the outlook was pretty grim. Last year as we prayed in Youth Group, each one of our children offered a prayer for her recovery. We prayed for her health, for strength for her family, for Gods will. I saw Ed at work one day. I didn't realize it until he told me when I asked how she was, that the little girl who was going up and down the aisle the Sunday before I saw him was Hope. Have you stopped to say thank you God for making her well. I'm sure that her family has, but have we as a church done that? I mean we did all pray for her, we should all give thanks. Praise is what we do to give thanks. If we don't give praise, then we are pretty ungrateful, and I for one am grateful for Gods healing love for that family and for all the other healings he has done in our church.

God loves our praise, but he also wants us to worship him. Just how do we do that? I don't profess to have all that much knowledge of worship, but I think I know of a few ways. One of them is to read your bible. God wants us to learn, and it is the bible that shows us ways to live and love. Another way he would want us to worship is that he would want us to share our praise. Our worship of God is most definitely in our thanks and praise, but also in our works...our actions. Remember, faith without works is dead. Worship to me is more than coming to church on Sunday morning. Much more. In fact, I think it's what we do in our lives from about 11:30 today until 10:30 next Sunday that shows just how we will worship this week. It's the way we behave among people or in difficult situations. It's about being considerate, unselfish, caring, loving, and compassionate. Just like Jesus was to the lepers. When we have the opportunity, we shout it out. We don't shy away from our God. Am I saying, grab a soapbox and shout it out on the corner? You may if you want, but I think God would also appreciate a more subtle manner. What I am saying is that we live our lives for God instead of ourselves. We put him first. We should be looking for the part that we can play in our life to do **HIS** will. How can we be more tolerant with someone we don't agree with? More caring about someone that we would have ignored in the past? Be a better employee, parent, partner or friend. This is a way we can worship him. Getting the most out of the time that he gives us, working for his plan and for his glory. Remember I said reading the bible was one way to worship God, well we may be the only bible someone sees this week. What kind of worship experience do want that person to have?

So, as we leave here today and go out into your week. Seek out those situations that God gives his healing love to you. When you do see them, and there will be plenty, **THANK HIM!!** Then share that love he gives you with others. I once heard a speaker say the he

would **“splash love all around, because some of it was sure to splash back on him.”**  
Try that this week, let me know how it goes.

Amen

Prayers of the people

Gracious, loving all powerful God. We come to you today, in praise and adoration for all the glories that you have offered to us. Thank you for the healing that you have given to members of our congregation, Thank you for the guidance that you have instilled in members of the session in searching out our interim pastor, who will be with us in just a few weeks. Thank you or the members of our church, who give selflessly of their time doing your work. Thank you for guiding our founding fathers in making us a Country that allows us to worship as we choose. God... bless and guide the leaders of our great country, give them insight and knowledge of what your will is for us, and to stand steadfast to that. God offer healing and protection to church members on our prayer list...