

I. Narrated Events as Windows into the Heart of Jesus

A. Today:

1. Current circumstances
 - a. Chair of the Cook County Council on Aging
 - b. The week spent devising a reopening plan for the thrift store
 - c. The challenge of powerlessness to read the situation, let alone fix the current situation
2. Current Questions
 - a. What would Jesus think?
 - b. How would Jesus feel?
 - c. What would Jesus do?
3. Current Need: **Answers to these kinds of questions in these kinds of circumstances call for windows, access into the inner heart and thoughts of Jesus.**

B. Windows

1. General Observations
 - a. Windows give those on the outside access to what's on the inside.
 - b. The window of God's word, in this case, Mark's gospel, gives us access not to just to the activities and teachings of Jesus, but to His heart as well.
 - c. Through the gospel record we have access to what motivates Jesus to do what He does and say what He says.
2. An additional three windows
 - a. The message of the "authority passage" 1:21-34
 - (1) These miracles recorded in Mark are intended to display our Savior's power and authority, to provide proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God
 - (a) Christ as that man who is God's Servant,
 - (b) Christ as that man who is God,
 - (c) Miracles show that he has power and authority
 - i) by virtue of who he is
 - ii) and by virtue of the sacrifice he made in eternity
 - iii) and was about to make at Calvary,
 - iv) **to forgive sins** (2:9, 10).
 - (2) Miracles are windows into Christ's heart of grace in saving lost sinners.
 - (a) Like the leper,
 - i) saved sinners have been made whole by Christ, the Priest, who touched us and made himself unclean to make us clean.
 - ii) We are made whole by the omnipotent touch

of his grace.

- (b) Like the woman with that twelve-year issue of blood, who had spent all she had on physicians of no value, we are made whole by virtue we get from touching him.
- (c) Like the Syrophenician woman, we who have no claim on the children's bread have obtained mercy by faith in Christ.
- (d) Like the Gadarene, we have been made whole and set free by the Master's word of grace.
- (e) Like the blind men, our Lord has given us eyes to see him and to see "every man clearly" (8:25).
- (f) Like Jairus' daughter, the Lord Jesus Christ raised us up from the dead.

(3) **Throughout the life of Jesus we find a man provided and anointed by the Father and empowered by the Spirit to serve the Father's glory by serving lost and sinful humanity as the Deliverer, the One appointed to rescue us from the deadly peril presented to us by our sin.**

b. **Each of these accounts provides a window into the heart of this man, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.**

II. **Three More Windows Into the Heart of Jesus in Mark 1:21-34**

A. **The reaction of the crowds provide a window into the heart of Jesus.**

- 1. Texts
 - a. **Mark 1:22 (ESV) *And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.***
 - b. **Mark 1:27 (ESV) *And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."***
 - c. **Mark 1:32-33 (ESV) ³² *That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.* ³³ *And the whole city was gathered together at the door.***
- 2. Window: The mercy of God is offered through the authority of Christ to all, even though there will always be those who treasure mercy and embrace authority and those who reject authority and dismiss mercy.
 - a. Reactions to Jesus
 - (1) People: loved or rejected Jesus
 - (a) Brought him their sick
 - (b) A few days later, they questioned his authority to heal on the sabbath
 - (2) Demons: knew but rejected Jesus
 - (a) We are specifically told twice that the demons knew the Lord Jesus.

- i) ***“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God”*** (vv. 23, 24).
 - ii) ***"And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him”*** (v. 34).
- (b) those demons knew both who he was and the truthfulness of all that he taught. Yet, they were not saved. Why? Because their knowledge was not connected with genuine trust!
- i) The mere belief and acknowledgment of Bible facts and Bible doctrine is not salvation.
 - ii) I realize that there is no salvation apart from the knowledge of gospel truth.
 - iii) But merely having your head full of facts is not salvation.
 - iv) Saving faith is no mere act of the intellect.
 - a) Saving faith is a matter of the heart (James 2:19; Romans 10:9, 10).
 - b) Heart faith is more than information in the head.
 - 1) It is the transformation of the life, from the inside out.
 - 2) Heart faith is more than knowing about Christ.
 - 3) It is trusting him, loving him, rejoicing in him, commitment to him, and cleaving to him.
- (c) Martin Luther once wrote. “Christianity consists of personal pronouns”.
- i) It is one thing to say, “Christ alone is Savior”.
 - ii) It is another thing altogether to lift your heart to heaven and say, “Christ alone is my Savior”.
 - iii) The demons of hell acknowledge the first.
 - iv) Only a child of God can truthfully state the last.
- (d) Salvation is the personal knowledge of Jesus Christ revealed in your heart by the Holy Spirit. It is not

information in you, but Christ in you, which is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

- b. **Jesus does not withdraw or withhold mercy from the world simply because many in the world have knowledge without faith.**
3. Who are these who treasure mercy and embrace the authority to extend the mercy of God and place their faith in Him?
 - a. The elect of God, chosen from eternity and called within time, empowered in faith by grace through the Holy Spirit to recognize and respond to God's saving grace on their behalf.
 - b. Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, came into the world and lived in utter reliance on the Holy Spirit, in perfect fellowship with the Father, so that through His willing and voluntary death on the cross, all obstacles to peace with God might be removed for those God has chosen for Himself.
 - c. Consider this: you see the mercy of God in the authority of Christ.
 - (1) He was given authority to lay down His life for you and to take it up again.
 - (2) You see the mercy of God accepting Christ's sacrifice on your behalf.
 - (3) Don't be like the demons, or the Pharisees, or the unbelievers captured in the cares of the world.
 - (4) Treasure mercy and embrace the authority of Christ to bring you to eternal peace with God.

B. The healing of the demoniac and of Peter's mother in law provide windows into the heart of Jesus.

1. The mercy of God is offered through the authority of Christ even to those who, exhibiting the symptoms of sin, can only suffer under sin and not save themselves.
 - a. I am not suggesting that the demoniac's condition or the woman's fever were a direct result of personal sin
 - b. I am suggesting that both of these, one with a spiritual condition and one with a physical condition were each unable to save themselves from their condition, just like the condition of human sin, each requiring someone else to save them, which is the work and the wonder of the Christ, Jesus, the Son of God.
2. When the Son of God heals, he heals. One minute this woman was lying in bed, sick with a fever. The Master took her by the hand, lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. The next minute she is serving him. Such a fever, even after it is broken, usually leaves a person very, very weak; but when our Savior works a work, he leaves nothing undone.
 - a. This is certainly a picture of the way he deals with sin-sick souls.
 - (1) He who redeemed us with his blood, when he comes in saving grace to our souls in the power of his Spirit, gives us everything we need to make us completely whole.

- (2) He who chose us also redeemed us.
 - (3) He who redeemed us also justified us.
 - (4) He who justified us also calls us.
 - (5) He who calls us also gives us faith.
 - (6) He who paid our debt also gives us grace.
 - (7) He who obtained eternal redemption with his blood also gives life to all his redeemed ones.
 - (8) He who gives us life also gives us faith.
 - (9) He who gives us faith also gives us power to become the sons of God.
 - (10) He who washed away our sins with his blood also cleanses us by his Spirit in regenerating grace.
 - (11) He who justified us also sanctifies us.
 - (12) He who sanctifies us will also glorify us.
 - (13) He who has saved us also gives us the grace and strength to serve and minister unto him.
- b. The sin-sick soul is not merely cured, and then left to itself.
- (1) It is also supplied with a new heart and a right spirit, and grace and strength sufficient for all that is required of it.
 - (2) Whatever God demands, he gives.
- c. Are you afraid to commit to Christ for fear you may not keep your word and fall away?
- (1) If Christ calls you, Christ will keep you.
 - (a) There are no half-cured cases with the Son of God!
 - (b) He leaves nothing unfinished.
 - (c) Every pardoned soul shall be preserved unto the end and perfected at last.
 - (2) It is written,
 - (a) ***"Faithful is he that calleth you. who also will do it"*** (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
 - (b) ***"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"*** (Philippians 1:6).
- d. Christian, are you disappointed the sense of your own weakness and insufficiency.
- (1) As your days demand shall your strength ever be.
 - (2) The lion that roars before you, as you walk in the path set before you, has no teeth, and no claws, and is on a chain; and the one holding the chain is our Redeemer.
 - (a) The lion cannot hurt you!
 - (b) The very worst he can do is make a lot of noise.
 - (c) He who gives you grace will also give you glory.

C. The intercession of others for the sick woman provides a window into the heart of Jesus.

- 1. The mercy of God is offered through the authority of Christ even to those

who have not themselves asked for it, but had others ask on their behalf.

- a. Jesus responds with mercy to simple, faithful, true-hearted, and sincere prayer.
 - b. The best remedy for our troubles, the best cure for our cares is the simple prayer of faith.
2. When Peter's mother-in-law was sick, "they told him (the Lord Jesus) of her".
- a. This is the first and best thing to be done in all cases.
 - b. When trouble comes, cry out to him who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
 - (1) No one else is so compassionate and willing to help as he is.
 - (2) No one else is so powerful and able to help as he is.
 - c. Examples
 - (1) When Jacob was in trouble, he turned to the Lord for help. He cried, "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of Esau" (Genesis 32:11).
 - (2) When Hezekiah was in trouble, he spread Sennacherib's letter before the Lord, and said, "I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand" (2 Kings 19:19).
 - (3) When Lazarus was sick, Martha and Mary sent a message to the Lord Jesus, saying, "Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:3).
 - d. We ought always to do the same.
 - (1) When sicknesses, bereavements, sorrows, trials, and troubles come, let us act in the simplicity of faith and tell him who is able and willing to help.
 - (2) Reminder: "Tell It to Jesus"
 - (a) Are you weary, are you heavyhearted?
 - (b) Are you grieving over joys departed?
 - (c) Do the tears flow down your cheeks unbidden?
 - (d) Have you sins that to men's eyes are hidden?
 - (e) Do you fear the gath'ring clouds of sorrow?
 - (f) Are you anxious what shall be tomorrow?
 - (g) Are you troubled at the thought of dying?
 - (h) For Christ's coming kingdom are you sighing?
 - (i) Chorus
 - i) Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
 - ii) He is a friend that's well known;
 - iii) You've no other such a friend or brother,
 - iv) Tell it to Jesus alone.
 - (3) This is the counsel we are given in holy scripture.
 - (a) ***"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved"*** (Psalm 55:22).

(b) *“Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”* (Philippians 4:6)

(c) *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”* (1 Peter 5:7).

III. Three Windows Reveal Christ’s Heart of Mercy for You

A. Opportunities

1. To treasure His mercy and embrace His authority in your life by putting your faith in Him and keeping it there.
2. To trust Christ to forgive your sin and enable a faithfulness in your life you cannot manufacture on your own.
3. To cry out to Christ and know that he will hear and answer those who treasure His mercy.

B. What I know

1. I do not know when we will gather as a congregation once again
2. I do know that wherever you are today, in whatever situation or condition you are in, you can reach out and put your trust in Jesus and He will respond with mercy and with power to demonstrate the glory of God in your life.
3. Reach out in faith today, for He is Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, God’s only provided, appointed, anointed, empowered Rescuer.