

“Call to Healing”

Youth Sunday / Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

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From the Pulpit

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Isaiah 40:21-31; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Would you join me in prayer?

God of our beginnings and endings and every transition between, help us to recognize our need for healing and to understand the ways we are formed by its process, even when a resolution is never in our sight. Amen.

Anybody, including myself, will read a story of Jesus performing a miracle and will think, “Wow, that’s so awesome that Jesus healed that person(s) etc.” There are 37 miracles that are accounted in Jesus’s life in the Bible. We know that Jesus saved many people from diseases, physical impairments, and even death. And yet, a lot of times, we forget that the miracle, the physical action of the miracle, represents a broader life lesson. Although Jesus heals hundreds of people in today’s

gospel, the essential underline from it, is the humanly need to rest. Early in the morning, he gets up out of the house and prays solo. He stayed there for so long that Simon and his companions *exclaimed*, “everyone is looking for you!”

A lot of times, we find ourselves desperately needing peace. This is the exact case for Jesus. Furthermore, a lot of Christianity is based on the basis of rest. The sabbath translates to “day of rest.” We have a day in our faith that is dedicated to rest. Mark’s telling of this story is very crucial to understand what God is calling us to do.

Another perspective to grasp the concept of learning the implicit lesson in a miracle about Jesus is to examine the actions and feelings of people surrounded by Jesus. In this context, the reader could identify closely with a character in the story, based on your current situation mentally or spiritually. For example, in the scripture, Simon’s mother-in-law’s character is searching for a hand and for strength outside to lift me up. I do so much for others, but I need someone to do this small thing for me, too. I’m sure many could relate to Simon’s Mother-in-law. Simon and his companions could be tied to searching for a way to respond. We see so many in need but do not know how to lead them out of confusion of the crowds and into an ordered way of life. We are searching

for a leader that can address their needs and help us to address them, too.

A third character that should also be mentioned is Jesus. His might sound like I am searching for my center. Before the sun rises, before the place is filled, I find God is with me always – in the deserted places and in the crowded streets. I am searching to make God’s peaceful presence known by others in their homes, in their sickness, in their busyness, and in their crowded towns. Jesus moves from sacred space to domestic sphere to public forum and affirms that his religion is one that is not only beyond institutional belief but for personal practice and social order. The way of Jesus is for our daily lives, honored in how we treat ourselves and others.

Even though all three of those personal statements are understandable and acceptable, the one that God calls us to is Jesus’s. Since I’ve grown up in this church, I have found that this congregation has always fulfilled God’s calling for us to make His presence felt among people in need, family, friends, strangers, and even enemies. Amen

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