

8.9.2009 Pentecost 10 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

Greeting: Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word of God I would like to lay on your hearts for today and for this week comes from:

NIV Mark 2:1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.
2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.
3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.
4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.
5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,
7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?
9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?
10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic,
11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."
12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"
13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.

THEME: WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THE CURE!

1. Who is sick?
 - a. **V1-2** The crowd in the room?
 - b. **V6** The teachers of the law?
 - c. **V3** The *paralytic* (physically – deathly sick?) and his friends?
 - d. **V?** You and I? Where are we in these verses?

2. What are the symptoms?
 - a. Characteristics of mankind's sickness (**Rom 3:23,24; Gal 5:19-21; Matt 15:19**)
 - b. **V6-8** The Blasphemy (discrediting God) of the Blasphemers (they didn't believe Jesus was God!)
 - i. –rejected God's prescription of forgiveness – Jesus Christ
 - c. **V9-12** Jesus has authority to forgive our sins?
 - i. YES! -because of the authority by what He said and did!
 - d. Illustration of water (the Word - **Is 55:1**) and sins (contaminated – food coloring **Is. 1:18**)
 - i. Try to add something to cleanse it = muddy the waters (false teachings **2 Cor.4:2**)
 - ii. Try to get it out on our own = lose the water (works righteousness **Titus 3:4-6**)
 - iii. TRUTH – we are helpless on our own (like the paralytic man **Eph 2:1**)

3. What does *The Divine Physician* prescribe?
 - a. **V5** Priority – spiritual healing (the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' payment on the cross **Ps 103:1-5**)
 - i. Need the water of God's Word to cleanse- waters abundantly provided for us! (**Titus 3:4-6**)
 1. Means of Grace = (Gospel in Word and Sacraments)
 - a. 3 life lines/cords that strengthen our faith in God
 - i. Baptism, Lord's Supper, The Word itself
 - ii. Jesus quenches our thirst - **John 4:13-14**
 - b. **V13** Jesus always was willing to share the CURE with others...

Conclusion:

- When it comes to physical suffering and diseases that lead to death – mankind hungers for a cure! **THEME**
- When it comes to spiritual suffering and mankind's sin that leads to eternal death – we continue to thirst to hear again and again the CURE we HAVE in the forgiveness of sins through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- You have this CURE that leads to eternal life in heaven to be with Jesus... let's follow His example and share Him, the Cure!