

# *“Hurry Up and Heal”*

*Mark 6:30-34; 53-56*

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An ethics professor at Princeton Seminary asked for volunteers for an extra assignment. About half the class met him at the library to receive their assignments. The professor divided the students into 3 groups of 5 each. He gave the first group envelopes telling them to proceed immediately across campus to Stewart Hall. The instructions told them that they had 15 minutes and if they didn't arrive on time, it would affect their grade. A minute or two later, he handed out envelopes to 5 others. They were also to go over to Stewart Hall, but they had 45 minutes. The third group had three hours to get to Stewart Hall.

The students weren't aware of it, but the professor had arranged for three drama students to meet them along the way. Close to the beginning of their walk, one of the drama students had his hands on his head and was moaning aloud as if in great pain, *"help me, help me, please help me!"* About halfway to Stewart Hall, on the steps of the chapel, the seminary students passed a man reeking of alcohol lying there as if passed out, and just as the seminarians passed was instructed to slur, *"Can you give a drunk some help?"* Finally, on the steps of Stewart Hall, the third drama student was acting out a seizure.

In the first group of students, those who had only 15 minutes to get across campus, no one stopped to help. In the second group, 2 students stopped to help.<sup>1</sup> In the last group, the one that had 3 hours for their assignment, all of the students stopped to help at least 1 person. The professor had clearly shown these seminarians that *Hurry Hinders Healing*.<sup>2</sup>

The awesome, healing power of Jesus is the same, *"Yesterday, today, and forever."* This same Jesus, who lovingly let the sick touch Him some 2,000 years ago, wants to touch you. As it says in the concluding verse for this morning, *"All who touched the fringe of his cloak were cured."* This same Jesus wants to make you whole.

Every single time Jesus healed someone there were at least 3 steps good folks like you and I took. This is important, let me say it a different way: Jesus never healed anyone who didn't follow these steps. Or in other words, if you want to receive Christ's healing and wholeness in your life, these are time tested steps to take:

**THEY RECOGNIZED THAT JESUS COULD HEAL THEM<sup>3</sup>:** Verse 54 says, *"When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,"* that is, they recognized Jesus. Do we recognize that Jesus can help us? Or do we all want to just hurry up and heal? Listen, all of us want to forget about the last 16 months and just get back to normal. But the truth is that over the last 16 months each and every one of us has developed new habits. Don't get me wrong, we've accepted much more responsibility for our faith. In fact, we and those closest to us have become better together. What a blessing!

Many of our new habits are mostly good for us, but when we look at the big picture, when we look at things from 10,000 feet, when we discern God's will for God's people we see that those new habits are both not good for the body of Christ, for the church and eventually, not good for us.

You see, we've been blessed with a great gift. A gift that is a healing balm. A gift that can save lives and save the world. But if we disconnect from the vine, if we don't share that gift, there is 100% chance that we'll experience a storm we can't handle and a 0% chance we will ever experience our faith's full Godly potential. That is, as people of faith we must recognize that, *"Normal"* isn't returning, Jesus is.

**THEY RAN TO JESUS:** Verse 55 says, *"... (they ran) to wherever they heard he was."* Get the picture? They ran about that entire region Capernaum, Bethsaida, Chorazin, Magdala, & the entire countryside to bring their sick to Jesus.



We who recognize Jesus, we who know his power, we who have experienced his healing in our lives, need to run to the One we know can heal us and make us whole. We need to break those bad habits and run to Jesus.

It's not just enough to recognize intellectually that Jesus can help us; it's not enough to know it in our hearts; it's not enough to pray it in our prayers; it has to be a gut reaction. Christ's compassion was a gut reaction. The Greek says that he was moved in his bowels. We need to have the same kind of gut reaction, from the core of our being, to be moved to run to Jesus.

We need to recognize Jesus, we need to run to Jesus and finally, **THEY RESPONDED TO JESUS BY FAITH:** Verse 56, ***"... they laid the sick in the marketplaces & begged that they might touch the fringe of his cloak; & all who touched it were healed."*** We need to respond to Jesus by faith. The unfortunate truth is, and you all know this, that sooner or later you're going to come up against something you can't handle alone or with just your family. Or you're gonna get hit by wave after wave after wave after wave. The point is, in this thing we call life, at some point you're going to need the collective wisdom, the collective prayer power, the collective healing touch, the collective anointing oil of the collective faith community, of collective Calvin.

Whatever causes you to say, ***"I hurt, I'm in pain, I don't feel well,"*** the awesome power of Jesus is made perfect in our weakness; His grace is sufficient for us. Jesus is our Great Physician. He can redeem any circumstance. Yes, even death itself. And when the collective gathers around you, and supports you and prays for you, it will transform your pain, your sorrow, yes even your journey to eternal life into the most healing and whole thing any of us have ever seen, heard, or read, it will be beyond our comprehension, beyond our vocabulary, beyond our understanding because it will be of God!

I get to tell blonde jokes because back when I had a full head of hair, it was blonde. So, a blonde finds himself in serious money trouble.... He lost his job and he's in dire financial straits. He's desperate so he decides to ask God for help. He begins to pray... ***"God, please help me. I've lost my job and if I don't get some money, I'm going to lose my house as well. Please let me win the lottery."*** Lottery night comes, and somebody else wins. He again prays.... ***"God, please let me win the lottery! I've lost my job, my house and I'm going to lose my car as well."*** Lottery night comes and he still has no luck. Once again, he prays... ***"My God, why have you forsaken me? I've lost my job, my house, and my car. My children are starving. I don't often ask You for help, and I've always been a good servant to You. PLEASE let me win the lottery just this one time so I can get my life back in order."*** Suddenly there is a blinding flash of light as the heavens open. The blonde is overwhelmed by the Voice of God, ***"Work with me here Big Guy and BUY a lottery ticket."***

Friends, The same Jesus who let the sick touch Him almost 2,000 years ago, wants to touch you & make you whole. He may move mountains, or He may move you. Whatever the case may be, it is clear normal isn't returning, Jesus is. Or in other words, God is saying to us today ***"Work with me here Big Guy and BUY a ticket."***

Amen?!

<sup>1</sup> A story told to probably every Princeton Seminarian.

<sup>2</sup> Porterfield, Brent. Hurry Hinders Ministry.

<sup>3</sup> Outline: Reynolds, David R. SICKNESS, HEALTH, AND HEALING

