

January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts for this week's Blended (Traditional) and Contemporary Services:
Isaiah 9:1-4 (NIRV) 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (NIRV) Matthew 4:12-25 (ESV)



Made New by the Gospel

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

Intro – This season we have been focused on how we are made new by the coming of God in Christ as the holy child of Bethlehem. This weekend's readings invite us to see how the promise is fulfilled in his adult ministry, culminating at the cross.

I. Jesus, the Healer

- a. He healed every disease and affliction – “They brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.” (v. 24).
- b. Jesus healed all things physical. Even more, he healed all things spiritual.
- ✓ **Key point** – The healing ministry of Jesus reveals his power over body, mind and spirit. It cannot be said too often that the physical healing he performed he did to show the greater healing that comes through a relationship with him.

II. Jesus, the Preacher

- a. The centerpiece of our Lord's preaching ministry is a missionary message – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (v. 17) To repent is to change direction – to turn from sin so as to turn/return to God. Jesus taught many things but this is the essential message he preached.
- b. His preaching and healing are linked. As we turn/return to God, we find the promised healing God offers us- a healing grounded in the forgiveness of sin.
- ✓ **Key Point** – The apostle Paul puts it clearly in his Letter to the Corinthians: “*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*” (1 Corinthians 10:18)

III. Jesus, the Teacher

- a. Jesus, after calling the first disciples by the Gospel, says to them, “Follow me, and I will teach you to fish for people!” His teaching ministry is a missionary one.
- b. Throughout his ministry, he taught his disciples – and he teaches us today – how to be God's light in the dark world.
- ✓ **Key Point** – The preaching, teaching and healing ministry of Jesus works together to bring the kingdom of God in Christ to all. The cross is the culmination of his missionary work – the means by which he brings us the Kingdom with all its light.

Closing – We are made new by the Gospel. By the cross of Christ, God offers us forgiveness and with that forgiveness, healing, peace and life. Having been made new, God then sends us as missionaries today into our world to be his light.

All Glory to God alone! Pastor Buono