A Time For Everything: Plan

**The Reason Jesus Heals You**

A Time to Plant and to Uproot

Mark 1:29-32

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Amen.”** (Ephesians 1:3)

A Sunday school class was asked the following questions, and this is how they answered:

* **Why did God make mothers?** Answers: To help us out of there when we were getting born. She’s the only one who knows where the scotch tape is. Mostly to clean the house.
* **What ingredients are mothers made of?** God made mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
* **What kind of little girl was your mom?** I don’t know because I wasn’t there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
* **What did Mom need to know about Dad before she married him?** His last name. Does he make at least $800/year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?
* **What does your mom do in her spare time?** Mothers don’t do spare time.
* **What’s the difference between moms and dads?** Moms have magic; they make you feel better without medicine. Moms work at work and work at home, and dads just go to work at work.

To summarize, in the minds of kids and in reality, moms serve their families… period. In fact, that’s the great thing about moms—if you ask them (when no kid is screaming or covered with a whole jar of peanut butter), they’ll tell you they love it. It is hardwired into their nature. What’s the worst thing that can happen in many homes? Mom gets sick, and the house becomes a house of bedlam.

1. **So that you can serve.**

Peter’s mother-in-law got sick… really sick. She was consumed by a fever, so bad that she couldn’t attend synagogue and was laid up in bed. Well, Jesus had just driven out a demon that day at the synagogue. Immediately following that we’re told that Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James, and John started walking over to Peter’s mother-in-law’s house because it was the common practice to attend a special Sabbath meal. When they got to the house, Mark records it so simply and tenderly that Jesus went to her, took her hand, helped her up, and the fever she had been suffering from left just like that! The man who had cast out a demon from a stranger now cast out the fever from Peter’s beloved mother-in-law. Peter would remember that.

But here’s where I want us to pay special attention. What did she do after she was healed? She didn’t go and shave her head and join a convent. She didn’t become arrogant and declare herself the queen of Capernaum. She didn’t try to sign a book deal or do the talk show circuit. She didn’t even leave the house. No. Jesus healed her, and her first question was, *“Let’s see now, where did I put the eggs?”* Or as Mark puts it so simply, ***“She began to wait on them.”*** She used the gift of health she had been given to do what she could do out of thanks to Jesus. She served. It’s why Jesus gives gifts to us like time, health, wealth, education and so on. It’s why he heals us. It’s his plan… so that we can serve.

And maybe you’re thinking, *“I haven’t been healed by Jesus.”* And I suppose you’re right if you’re thinking that healing only means that you have cancer infesting your body one week and the next week the scan comes up negative. And Jesus does that from time to time. But you are here today and not in bed with a fever. Who do you think did that? Many of you have never had cancer. Many sleep well at night. Many of you have had broken bones that have HEALED. Many of you had colds or the flu earlier in the year, and yet you didn’t die because of the incredible way God made our bodies with immune systems. Don’t you understand that without that, a virus could sweep through your body and take you out like that? Who do you think healed you in all those ways? I think of what we would tell our little children when they would get a boo-boo, *“Pray to Jesus to make it better.” “Will Jesus make it better?” “Yes.”* It’s true! Jesus heals you every day. This is something to thank him for! How?

Serve. To do anything else is to waste Jesus’ healing. Think through how you would answer the question when you are laid up in the hospital or struggling with some medical problem if someone were to ask you: *“Why do you want to get better?”* I want to be healed so that I can live without pain again, so that I can go hiking, so that I can enjoy travel, so that I can… wrong. I want to be healed so that I can *serve*. This is Jesus’ plan for you.

1. **Because he cares about your physical health.**

But there’s more to why Jesus heals you. Very simply, he does care about you physically. Sometimes God allows pain to enter our lives because he wants to show us our need for him. Pain turns our faces around if we have forgotten him. Pain tells us that we aren’t home yet. Pain keeps us from being satisfied with the world. Pain has a way of keeping us longing for the only thing that will satisfy us, the one person: Jesus. Do you realize how blessed you are? Not every life lived in this world includes knowing God. Yours does. Pain leads us to cry out to the One who has lived life through human tears, who even asked “why” of the Father on the cross, who showed the world beyond a shadow of a doubt that he cares for you. It leads us to seek out Jesus.

And that’s exactly how our text continues: ***“That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door.”*** Can you imagine Peter saying, *“Jesus, you have visitors.” “Who is it?” “The whole town!”* Do you see what was happening here? It was the Sabbath and the legal distance for walking on that day was to the synagogue and then back home. Many had seen Jesus cast out the demons at the synagogue and they went home wondering, *“Could he, would he… fix my mom? Fix my dad?”* Maybe those people were home sick not at the synagogue, and their relatives came home and they all wondered, *“Could he, would he… help us?” “Let’s go! No, no, we can’t go yet. It’s the Sabbath. We have to wait until the sun sets and the new days begins.”*

There’s no e-mail, no teleconference, no Facebook status updates. All these people went home saying the same thing, *“As soon as evening comes, when the sun sets…”* Can you just imagine the picture as these people look out the door, standing in the entryway, and watch as it becomes evening and the sun is setting—so they can go to Jesus for help. Pain does that.

It’s like you. Sunday morning dawns. Loaded down with a week’s worth of worry and stress and pain and sickness and guilt. You look forward to going to see Jesus for help. Those people in our text had specific reasons for going to see Jesus. They had all these problems, and apparently, every person in town was involved in some way—whether sick or bringing the sick. You can just imagine the streets of that town, maybe 2,000 people at most, narrow winding streets, and as the sun sets this stream of people come from every direction. They head for the place they saw Jesus go at the end of synagogue service so that he can help. And again, Mark records it so beautifully. That’s just what Jesus did—help. He didn’t get his Saturday afternoon nap after preaching. He had a long day, but he healed them because he cared for them physically.

Friend, Jesus cares about your physical needs, too. And he does heal you 99.9% of the time. Even if you have to suffer with a lingering illness—he hasn’t forgotten you. Ultimately deep down we know that we all have that .1% when Jesus won’t heal us, not because he can’t, but because he wants something better for you than this life. He wanted it so badly that he went to a cross to pay the price you owed and rose from the grave to assure you of the place where no one needs to be healed. This is Jesus’ plan for you.

1. **Because he cares about your spiritual health.**

And that’s finally why he heals you. To point you to the fact that he cares most about your spiritual health. The text goes on to say, ***“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”*** Don’t miss this point! Jesus was up into who knows what hour of the night healing people. If there were ever a time to sleep in, you’d think Jesus earned it. But instead, he wakes up while it’s still dark out to get away from the hustle and bustle of disciples and people wanting help so that he can talk with his Father. And what did he pray about? Well, what was his all-consuming and only passion? You. The message of your salvation and bringing that mission to its fruition at the cross for you. That’s a comforting thought, isn’t it? When Jesus says, *“I know my sheep. I call them by name,”* it means that he didn’t just pray for a nameless, faceless mass of humanity… he prayed with your image in his mind’s eye—you are the apple of it, after all.

Do you see what Jesus is doing here? Not only is he spending time with his Father perfectly in our place, but laying down an example for us. He wants to spend time with you as well. Jesus, the holy God, not only had time to pray, he made time to pray. If you’re too busy to pray, then you’re too busy! One church father said, *“If there was ever a reason to be sober in the evening, it is so that you can get up early in the morning to pray and read God’s Word.”* Have you ever noticed that when you skip this part of the day, you can say, *“I’ll get to it later”* and then five simple tasks chase you around all day? Can’t Jesus do the opposite when you put first things first and spend time with Jesus in the Word and pray? It’s why he heals you. Yes, so that you can serve, but also so that you have the energy to be served by him through his Word. He heals you to point to the greater healing he wants to do for you spiritually.

When the disciples come and chase after Jesus and say that everyone is looking for him to heal some more, Jesus said, ***“Let’s go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”*** Why did Jesus come? To preach. Let him preach to you through his Word and open your eyes to see how he didn’t choose the path of super-star faith healer, but instead chose the path that led to a cross on Calvary—to heal you, not physically, but eternally. This is Jesus’ plan for you. How could we not serve a Savior like that? As you make your plans, plan to be served by Jesus through his Word. Then plan to serve with your life. That’s why Jesus heals you! Amen.

**“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”** *(Ephesians 3:20-21)*