

## Sermon Who is Jesus – part 3

Luke 4:14-17 + 7:11-16 + Isa 61:1-4

Luke sees Jesus as the gracious healer of the marginalised and today I want to talk about how Jesus can mend a Broken Heart

So let's look at Jesus in Luke's Gospel. Last week we looked at Mark's Gospel, the week before Matthew. Luke's gospel gives us the fullest account of Jesus's life and it is the only one that has a sequel – part 2 if you will in Acts.

Jesus had just returned from the wilderness and the Mount of Temptation where he had struggled with Satan and faced temptation and had not bowed to compromise. The Bible says that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee. His fame was spread abroad and he began to teach in the synagogues. On the occasion of our text we find Jesus in the synagogue quoting the famous passage from Isaiah the prophet that spoke of a great Messiah who would come and heal and deliver the people of God who were held captive by sin and the devil. Jesus read this great text and sat down and said, "This scripture is now literally fulfilled." Jesus quotes directly from the prophesy in Isaiah where 3 messages were delivered:

1. His message was first of all to proclaim the good news of the gospel

Secondly to "Heal the broken hearted and Set the captives free."

Third, "To set the captives free and give sight to the blind."

I want to focus on the second purpose of Jesus ministry this morning paying particular attention to the words he came to Heal the broken hearted.

Let me read you this letter ....

Antoine Leiris, a journalist at France Bleu, declared that he and their baby son would not live in fear of terrorists

In the tragic note, titled 'You will not have my hatred' he wrote: "On Friday evening you stole the life of an exceptional person, the love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hatred.

"I don't know who you are and I don't want to know, you are dead souls. If this God for whom you kill blindly made us in his image, every bullet in the body of my wife is a wound in his heart.

"So no, I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You obviously want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are.

"You would like me to be scared, for me to look at my fellow citizens with a suspicious eye, to sacrifice my liberty for security. You have lost. The same player still plays.

"I saw her this morning. At last, after nights and days of waiting. She was as beautiful as when she left on Friday evening, as beautiful as when I fell head over heels in love with her more than 12 years ago.

"Of course I am devastated with grief, I grant you this small victory, but it will be short-lived.

"I know she will be with us every day and we will find each other in heaven with free souls which you will never have.

What a truly amazing man – one who clearly has a faith- One who will not let this terrible tragedy of the loss of his wife destroy his life. Neither will he let hatred of the murderers take a hold in his life. He can only do that if he has Jesus to help him.

Jesus was sent by God to live on this earth for a specific purpose – to save the world so that the world can be reconciled to Him. When we see the violence in our world today we surely must acknowledge that we need Jesus more than ever in our lives. This is the time of Advent – where we celebrate His birth but we wait His coming again so that the full glory of God's Kingdom can come about.

Jesus left heaven to come to this world with the express purpose in mind of healing broken hearts. He was born in a manger, wrapped in poor man's rags, walked among us and ministered among us and was mocked, and whipped and hung on a cross to suffer, because he loved you and me enough to want to save us and mend our broken hearts. Amen

With this in mind, I want you to consider this morning that we as church have a ministry that has been handed down to us through our saviour. It is the ministry of helping to heal broken hearts. It is the ministry of pointing people to the only one who can heal a broken heart.... the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

How do we mend a broken heart?

## I. First by Considering the Great Need All Around Us

It is recorded that Jesus healed 31 times in the Bible – indeed 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the Gospels are about Jesus' healings. He healed demonic issues, fever, 'blindness, skin disease, immobility. He healed with compassion and by faith and by touch, command and prayer.

But in this story in Luke we see Jesus go beyond healing – he brings a young man to life.

The Bible says that when Jesus saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion.

Broken hearts are found in all classes of people. No one is exempt from the possibility of experiencing a broken heart. Take the mother of the dead son in Nain – when he saw her his heart went out to her – don't cry he said and he touched the young man and commands him to get up – the young man sat up and he began to talk.

The word broken hearted in our text literally means to be pressed down upon by calamities. To heal those hearts who are broken down upon by a sense of sinfulness or affliction. The next line explains the purpose in healing broken hearts..."To preach deliverance to the captives...to set at liberty them that are bruised.

To set free from being bruised means to literally be set free from the pressure of the problem and give them consolation.

We have all experience brokenness – whether through the illness or death of a loved one. I see it many times when praying for people who are very sick or going to see family preparing to bury they love ones . It is so heart-breaking seeing their broken hearts. But often when I see broken hearts I also see broken hearts mended time and again because people do TAKE their BURDENS TO THE LORD AND LEAVE IT THERE!

When Jesus first entered this world...the first sound he heard was of weeping.... It was the wail of those mothers in Bethlehem mourning over their children.

From the manger to the cross he was surrounded by sorrow. "He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief."

He cried over Jerusalem.... He wept at the grave of Lazarus...He too was acquainted with tears and grief.

We know that he is weeping alongside Antione and all those who lost loved ones in France and in Mali and with all those who have been lost in war.

## **II. Secondly, To heal a broken heart one needs to commit the Problem to Jesus who Expressly Sent by God to Mend broken hearts**

Look at the words, "He hath sent me" - Jesus did not fail in His mission and Jesus will not fail me or you.

He wants to mend our broken hearts this morning. If you will trust Him he will not fail you.

God sent Moses with a mission of deliverance to deliver 3 million people who were captive and broken hearted. He had no general, he had no armies...He did have a speech impediment...but he would not fail because the spirit of the Lord was upon him.

NOW DO THINK FOR A MOMENT THAT GOD'S OWN SON WOULD FAIL YOU IN YOUR GREATEST TIME OF NEED. "He is the GREAT PHYSICIAN," He wrote the book on mending broken hearts.

## **II. CHRISTIANS HAVE A BLESSED HELP IN MENDING BROKEN HEARTS**

**YOU DO NOT HAVE A BURDEN SO HEAVY THIS MORNING THAT CHRIST CANNOT CARRY. BRING YOUR BROKEN HEART TO THE LORD.**