

THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

June 5, 2016

6. Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

Matthew 9:1-8

What is the connection between sin and sickness or forgiveness and healing? This question is penetrating and if properly answered it can resolve a lot of man's problems. Demystifying Matthew, a writer to the Jews we must realize the connection between sickness and sin lay deep in the Jewish psyche and could be taken all the way back to the Fall in Genesis 3. Indeed, all sickness, suffering, and death can be traced back to the Fall and God's condemnation of sin, but the Jewish religious leaders took this to the extreme. They blamed every sickness on sin of the individual or the sin of the parents. For instance, the boy born blind healed by Jesus, where the question also arose as to whether it was his sin or the sin of the parent that caused his situation. Jesus' response was neither, but it was for God to be glorified. You can see, Jesus did not follow that line of thought that the Jewish leaders had, nevertheless the connection between the Fall and sickness and death cannot be overlooked. And only God can forgive sin and heal human diseases. Doctors and medicines do help but only God can heal totally.

After Jesus restored the demon-possessed men in the land of the Gadarenes, the people asked Him to leave their region. Jesus complied, so He and His entourage left and went back to Capernaum, the headquarters of His ministry. Therefore our text of the day reads, "Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" 6 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man" (Matthew 9:1-8).

Our text informs us that upon returning to His town (Capernaum, the headquarters of His Ministry), Jesus entered a house and a paralytic was brought to Him by some men. Jesus saw his faith and did a startling thing – forgave his sins as He said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." The scribes are beside themselves because they know God can forgive sins, and Jesus was doing just that. In their eyes this is a grievous sin – Jesus was blaspheming! Their problem was that they had not taken note of Jesus' messianic signs and therefore did not believe that He was the Messiah. Therefore in verse 5 Jesus knowing their thoughts in their hearts asked the question, "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" While claiming to forgive sins is easier (Anyone can claim this, and who could disprove them?), but the healing proved that Jesus had the power to forgive sins.

In verse 6-7, Jesus then made the following pronouncement, "But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." The man got up and went home. The crowd were filled with awe; and praised God, but wondered who has given such authority to man! The cross of Jesus overshadows this section in that Jesus could forgive sins for He was the Son of God. He did not have to go to the cross first to pay for the sins of mankind before He could forgive sin! As such it

would be much easier to heal a man than to forgive sins. The forgiveness of sin was a greater gift of the Messiah, connecting His ministry to His primary reason for coming to die on the cross for sins. Here also, we encounter one of Jesus' early 'Son of Man' sayings. Jesus used this term in the tradition of Daniel 7:13-14 to demonstrate that He has the authority to forgive sins. This Daniel reference reads, "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, [The Aramaic phrase bar enash means human being. The phrase son of man is retained here because of its use in the New Testament as a title of Jesus, probably based largely on this verse] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed".

The good news is that He loves you to forgive and heal you just like He did for the paralytic man if only you come to Him in faith likewise. You can then get up and go home to tell all that Jesus had done for you. For one Thursday Jesus was arrested and paraded from one Judgment Hall to another without finding any fault or wrong doing with Him. Yet He was crucified. He died not for His sins but that of the whole world. He was buried in a borrowed tomb because He knew He did not need it for a long time. And thanks be to God, He got up on the third day with all powers in His hands - implying He can both forgive and heal. This is the word of God for the people God; let God's people say, Amen!!

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The early Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee after the Sermon on the Mount reflected the following:

- The Healing of a Leper – a miracle occurring and the process involves request, response, resolution, and restriction and/or responsibility.
- The Healings at Capernaum – Showing Christ is interested in our complete deliverance - sin, sickness and death so that we can serve Him and others.
- There is a price tag in following Jesus that you cannot afford to be impulsive or reluctant but dedicated in your commitment to follow Jesus.
- The storms are calmed at the word of His command and peace is restored!
- Two demon-possessed men were restored!
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

Do you know this Jesus who transforms you through cleansing and/or healing to be accepted by the society of believers? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God's kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama**  
**Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

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**INSTALLATION SERVICE, NEW POPULAR SPRING MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH,  
AUBURN, ALABAMA, Rev. R. D. Jacobs, Pastor Elect**

*Theme: Where Are You and How Can Anyone Preach Unless They Are Sent?*

*(Genesis 3:9; Romans 10:13-15).*

**June 5, 2016**

**The Importance Of Preaching**

**Romans 10:1-21**

**1. Pray / Acknowledge**

**A. The presence of God, Ebenezer District Officers, Pastors/Ministers, My Honeybunch (Wife)/Pastors' & Ministers' Wives, Family members, all God's children and Friends present at this August occasion.**

**2. Gratitude**

**A. Planning Committee Members for this Installation service for selecting a beautiful and appropriate theme for the occasion**

**B. Leadership of NPS for considering it fit for me to be the Guest speaker for this Installation service.**

**3. Commendations**

**A. The Wisdom of Pastor Emeritus Torbert for understanding the passing of the touch/Barton to the next generation and stepping aside in obedience to God's instruction that he has accomplished what he had sent him to do the 16-17 years of his tenure here NPS.**

**B. The Wisdom of NPS – for not allowing this church to be without a pastor when Pastor Torbert stepped down. Other Congregations should learn from this Church.**

**C. The Wisdom of Pastor Elect Jacobs for being obedient to God and remaining in the area**

**4. Introduction:**

- **To the honoree, Pastor Jacobs, we have all gathered here today to celebrate with you, and to challenge and encourage you to endure and be faithful in this appointment God gave you to shepherd this congregation. First I want to commend you, Pastor Jacobs, for all these past years of serving as an associate and son in the ministry at Mt Traveler. Secondly, I desire to alert you that the job of the pastor is not easy because you have God as your overseer or supervisor. You are the under shepherd appointed by God to lead His congregation into all knowledge and wisdom. Jeremiah 3:15 states "...I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding". The pastor is a shepherd and not a hireling. A hireling is somebody who is motivated to work only for pay (money). Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep" (John 10:11-13).**

- Unfortunately our people are yet to fully understand the difference between a pastor and a preacher. A pastor must preach but a preacher does not necessarily have to pastor. It is just like a preacher must be a teacher but a teacher is not necessarily a preacher. We have had many a problem within the black Baptist Church because the congregation sometimes calls a preacher to be pastor or called a pastor but expect him to be a preacher and not a pastor. Preaching is teaching the truth of God with a persuasion to convert/win people over to the kingdom of God. Teaching is bringing a subject matter to the understanding of the pupils.
- The job of a pastor is therefore more effective when he relies and spends time in the presence of God all the time since his preaching is to persuade people to come into the kingdom of God and Christ. Acknowledging and walking in God's presence at all times helps the pastor, who is the under shepherd, to understand that the work of the ministry involves preparation, prayers and commitment to saving souls. The pastor must completely rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's word to be effective; knowing that he is an under shepherd and not a hireling in the kingdom of God. As a shepherd, Pastor Jacobs your responsibility is to lead, protect, feed, guide and care for God's flock to grow in worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and outreach ministry. Your driving forces for ministering therefore must be love and the Holy Spirit. When the pastor does this his reward is a double honor. Otherwise your Modus Operandi (techniques) will differ from that of Jesus Christ the Chief Shepherd. Today we have come to honor Pastor Jacobs as you become the leadership of this congregation officially. The theme chosen is very appropriate but I will like to it modify it as I already stated.

**5. Where are you and how can anyone preach unless they are sent?**

Preaching is teaching with persuasion to win or save souls. Souls are loss or separated from God that is why preaching is done to persuade them to return to God and not necessarily for them to have entertainment. The crux of this matter is the matter of the heart. When God asked the question "Where are you?" in Genesis 3:9 did He not know that Adam had sin and was trying to create his own righteousness and justification? Each time you start hiding by missing church, it is an indication of the sin of rebellion or being obedient to the word of God. Paul at the beginning of Romans 10 expressed his anguish with the attitude of the Israelites who tried to justify their ways when he wrote, "Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:1-4).

The righteousness that comes through Christ is by faith in the word of God proclaimed by his messenger. In fact, Deut. 30:14 says, "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your

heart". This is why you often hear the preacher say, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved". And anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will never be put to shame.

Thus Romans 10:13-15 presents the following arguments, "For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [Joel 2:32]. 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" [Isaiah 52:7]".

The good news need to be proclaimed by every preacher. Isaiah proclaimed it to the children of Israel but not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [Isaiah 53:1]. Yes, your preaching may be rejected by some but it doesn't matter; the word needs to be proclaimed because faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through preaching of the word of God that salvation is through Jesus Christ. For preachers and pastor it is good to know: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

6. In conclusion, the work of the pastor involves the great task of proclaiming the word of God by the Power of the Holy Spirit and in love to persuade souls to have faith to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved and be won into the Kingdom of God. It is not an easy task because you are answerable to God who has appointed you to be his under shepherd to this congregation. Pastor Jacobs, I therefore encourage and charge you son:
  - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
  - Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Teach the word of God faithfully and entrust the same to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure like other faithful pastors in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
  - Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time has come when people do not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They have turned their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and discharge all the duties of your ministry. Finally, to the congregation, called the church at Bell Baptist be

careful not to touch God's appointed and anointed one and do no harm to His under shepherd He has appointed to lead you in all knowledge and understanding.

- God blessed you, Pastor Jacobs and congratulations on your Installation as Pastor of NPS; and I wish you many years of Service here as the Lord has appointed for you! And let the church say, "Amen"

### Invitation to accept Jesus and discipleship

And if you are reading this on the Internet and desire to understand the Modus Operandi of the Church and its leadership, the starting point is to pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior. If you just did that, write and tell us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)?

**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama**  
**Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

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#### **THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**June 12, 2016**

**7. The Calling of Matthew**

**Matthew 9:9-13**

Everyone's calling to follow Jesus is unique. Some are called while in the mother's womb to serve God. Others are called as children or in their adolescent and teenage years. Yet others are called in their prime while others in their old age. Further, others are called out of their vocation to follow Jesus. In all these, no one who ever responded positively to Jesus' call to follow Him ever regretted doing so. The question is who does Jesus call? He calls those who are receptive and responsive to His word. He calls the meek and lowly but most importantly He calls the sinners. And the scriptures inform us that ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. As such, He actually calls everyone. It is up to you to be willing and make yourself available to be His servant. So as Jesus left the house where He had forgiven and healed the paralytic man at Capernaum, he saw Matthew, the tax collector, and asked him to follow Him.

Therefore our text of the day reads, "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [Hosea 6:6]. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"" (Matthew 9:9-13).

These verses indicate to us that Jesus is intentional in calling those He calls. He is not interested in those who are impulsive or reluctant followers but those who are receptive, responsive and committed to be His followers. Jesus associates and builds relationship with such followers. Matthew, the tax collector and sinner was such a follower who was committed to change his life and be a faithful follower of Jesus. It is quite interesting to note that this is the only Gospel where this tax collector, the first disciple is called Matthew. The Gospels of Mark and Luke both refer to him as Levi. There have been many suggestions made for the difference in names.

However, the simplest and mostly likely reason is that Matthew had two names, Matthew and Levi as this was not uncommon in ancient times, especially among the Jews. And even in modern time we sometimes have two or more names – first, middle and/or nickname.

All three synoptic Authors identified Matthew/Levi as a tax collector. Tax collectors worked for the Roman Government. However they also collected extra money in addition to the required tax so they could keep the extra for themselves. Therefore the tax collectors were despised by the Jews for their avarice, being self-serving and dishonest as well as for being agents of the despised Roman power. From the Jewish vantage view, the tax collectors were the worst of sinners and as such as lowly as the Gentiles.

When accused by the Pharisees of fraternizing with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus responded by saying that it is the sick that need a physician and not the healthy. This does not imply by any means that the Pharisees were healthy but that he saw the tax collectors as those in need of help. He then followed this remark with a searing reference to Hosea 6:6 ('I desire mercy, not sacrifice'), the scathing implication of which would have been clearly understood by His audience. Jesus then furthermore added that His purpose in coming is not to call those who saw themselves righteous, but to call those who would see their need as the sinners. This passage draws attention to the growing antagonism between the Pharisees and/or Jewish leaders and Jesus as they did not want Him to interact with sinners. How else would Jesus have impacted the sinner's life, transform and save such if He did not interact with the sinner! This suggests that if Christians are to influence sinners and cause them to be saved we must interact with them but not associate with them to indulge in their acts.

The take home message is that Jesus reaches sinners where they are, but does not become a sinner. That is how He succeeded in calling Matthew, the tax collector into following Him as a disciple. And that is the guiding principle! Christians must interact with sinners to influence them to become disciples of Jesus but must not indulge in sinning with them. This is the word of God for the people God; let God's people say, Amen!!

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The early Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee after the Sermon on the Mount reflected the following:

- The Healing of a Leper – a miracle occurring and the process involves request, response, resolution, and restriction and/or responsibility.
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- There is a price tag in following Jesus that you cannot afford to be impulsive or reluctant but dedicated in your commitment to follow Jesus.
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- Two demon-possessed men were restored!
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

Do you know this Jesus who transforms you through cleansing and/or healing to be accepted by the society of believers? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of

God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God's kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

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THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

June 19, 2016

8. Jesus Questioned About Fasting

Matthew 9:14-17

When it comes to fasting, it will benefit us to know what it is, why it done, how it is done and when it is done. Technically fasting is the withdrawal from eating food and sometimes from drinking liquids as well. However, in this generation fasting has been redefine to mean the withdrawal from partaking in what is most valuable to you including texting, watching television, doing face book, using the phone, etc. Why do you need to fast? It is done to humble ego and to repent from sin so as to be able to see and accept things from God's perspective thereby knowing His will and finding favor with Him especially in times of hard decisions and/or adversity. How then do you fast? In the Christian perspective, fasting is to be done both secretly and publicly by individuals and collective groups or bodies, respectively. Public fasting is done when a group proclaims a fast for any reason known to that group. For the Muslims, fasting is one of the five tenets for their religion and so their fasting is always public and they fasts for the whole month of Ramadan once a year, as they are current doing this month of June 2016. And the Muslims ensure that everyone knows when they are fasting. For the Christian, you are to adorn yourself when you fast so that no one knows except God who sees in secret in order that you will get your reward from Him who sees in secret. The frequency of your fasting is not a fix number and you can fast as often as necessary because some things cannot be done except by prayers and fasting. You are not to look sorrowful or pitiful or dejected when you fast. Christians generally fast to seek God's face, favor and directions when things are not right, just and well.

Fasting was a cultural-religious practice with spiritual depth almost synonymous with righteousness among Jewish religious leaders. The Day of Atonement was the only annual national fast day set out in Jewish Law. The requirement for this fast was repentance for sin (Leviticus 16:29, 31; 23:27, 32; Numbers 29:7). So in the Jewish community it was common place also for disciples of a renowned prophet or teacher to fast. There are several references to personal fasts that involved smaller groups and individuals and these are usually associated with mourning and penitence, or prayers of supplication (1Kings 21:27; Numbers 30:13). And after the Jews returned from exile, a number of fasts were instituted (Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 9:1). Of particular interest would be the fast at the time of Purim (Esther 4:16).

An overview of how to look at fasting from the Jewish perspective is as follows. During the period between the Old and the New Testaments, fasting was a sign of spiritual devotion and it was associated with prayers and almsgiving. By New Testament times, fasting was for mourning



and personal sin and usually associated with prayer and became synonymous with the righteous life. During the time of Jesus, fasting was practice twice a week by the Pharisees, on Mondays and Thursdays and when anyone fulfills this obligation such a person was considered to be righteous. For this reason, Jesus gave instruction regarding fasting in the Sermon on the Mount, warning against the hypocrisy of the scribes and the Pharisees (Matthew 6:16-18).

Therefore our text of the day reads, “Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” 15 Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the Bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. 16 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved” (Matthew 9:14-17).

These verses discuss the question of why Jesus’ disciples as a group and individually did not fast whereas the disciples of John (the Baptist) and the Pharisees fasted often. Jesus answered the question to reflect the fact that John and his disciples were expectantly waiting for a Messiah so they had to fast to know God’s will. Jesus personally knew that the Messianic age was breaking through Him and the presence of the Messiah is not an occasion of mourning but rejoicing. A time of rejoicing calls for feasting not fasting! So fasting was out of the question for His disciples. But when the Messiah is taken from them, then there will be need for fasting.

Jesus then followed His answer with two proverbial sayings: “No one sews a patch of (new) unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved”. The core of these two proverbial sayings is that you do not mix the old and the new. The implication from these proverbial sayings of Jesus perhaps indicate that the old message of the Torah thinking should not be mixed with the new messianic ways; and that the coming of the kingdom inaugurated a new age of salvation for people, not just a reformation of Judaism.

The take home message is that Jesus desires that we understand that Christianity is not a patching on Judaism. Christianity is a new way of life that depends on the righteousness imputed unto the believer through faith in the salvation that Christ has wrought. Salvation or righteousness is not through the works that you do. So fasting cannot make you righteous nor obtain salvation for you. However, if you are saved, then you can do good works. The implication from Jesus statement is that if you have been saved, you are righteous and then you can fast to seek God’s will and favor in difficult times because there are certain things that cannot be done except by prayers and fasting. Another implication is that since Jesus, the Bridegroom of Christians, is not physically present with us now is not the time to feast but fast so as to know God’s will and find His favor. This is the word of God for the people God; let God’s people say, Amen!!

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The early Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee after the Sermon on the Mount reflected the following:

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- The storms are calmed at the word of His command and peace is restored!
- Two demon-possessed men were restored!
- The forgiving and healing of a paralytic man
- The call of Matthew, the disciple
- Jesus questioned about fasting
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

Do you know this Jesus who transforms you through cleansing and/or healing to be accepted by the society of believers? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God’s kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

**THE EARLY MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**June 26, 2016**

**9. Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

**Matthew 9:18-26**

Jesus is always busy, but never too busy for you. While in route in response to someone’s request, He is still available to respond to your request if you truly come to Him in faith. But sometimes it appears like you have been forgotten by Jesus as others requests are responded to and yours is not. And sometimes we get jealous and envious when that occurs.

On last Sunday we concluded the sermon on Jesus questioned about fasting with two proverbial statements that He used. The core of these two proverbial sayings is that you do not mix the old and the new. The implication from these proverbial sayings of Jesus perhaps indicate that the old message of the Torah thinking should not be mixed with the new messianic ways; and that the coming of the kingdom inaugurated a new age of salvation for people, not just a reformation of Judaism. During this early ministry of Christ, Matthew writes with the vantage view to proof that Christ is the Messiah and emphasizes the miracles from the perspective of the faith of the people in Jesus as the Messiah because no one could do the things He did except He is God. As

soon as Jesus had responded to the question about fasting and added the two proverbial sayings, to proof that this is not just a reformation of Judaism but the inauguration of the coming kingdom and an new age of salvation for people, Jairus the synagogue ruler came confidently in faith to Jesus inviting Him to come and heal his dying daughter. On His way to Jairus' house Jesus was delayed as the woman with the issue of blood reached out and touch His garment in faith and received her miraculous healing instantaneously. What a demonstration of Jesus Christ as the Messiah by the people's faith in Him!

Therefore our text of the day reads, "While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." 19 Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. 20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." 22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. 23 When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, 24 he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. 25 After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. 26 News of this spread through all that region" (Matthew 9:18-26).

Matthew's narrative of these two miracles is much shorter than Mark's version in Mark 5:21-42 or Luke's (Luke 8:40-56). Matthew's purpose is to demonstrate the remarkable faith of both the woman and the leader of the synagogue in Jesus as the Messiah, whereas Mark's emphasis is the remarkable power of Jesus as the Messiah. Mark and Luke revealed the name of the synagogue's leader as Jairus and their version of the story is abruptly interrupted for a while by the intrusion of the woman with the twelve years of hemorrhage. Jairus' daughter greater miracle was delayed but not forgotten due to the abrupt interruption of healing of the woman with the issue of blood. How often do your miracles get interrupted by another person's miracles! When that happens, do remember your miracle could be a greater one!

Matthew was also writing to a Jewish audience so he did not explain that Jairus was the synagogue ruler, he simple said he was a synagogue leader. Also, we do not know for certain the nature of the woman's hemorrhage; but most of the time it has been assumed it is a hemorrhaging of the womb. If this assumption is true, then her problem was twofold: the difficulty of the physical problem she had endured and the ceremonial uncleanness that would have been pronounced on her by Jewish custom because she is bleeding (Leviticus 15:19-23). Even though, this woman was unclean, she reached out in faith and touched the fringes (helm) of Jesus' garment. This implies that Jesus evidently followed the Jewish instructions regarding the four fringes to be at the four corners of His garment (Numbers 15:28-41; Deuteronomy 22:12). So this story is obviously about the simple faith of the woman. She was convinced that if she touched the helm of Jesus' garment, she would be healed! Jesus Himself acknowledged her faith and encouraged her to take heart, for her faith has made her well. And instantly she was healed. Do you allow others to discourage you faith in reaching Jesus when they call you "unclean"?

Matthew also made sure that we understand that Jairus also had faith. His confidence in Jesus as he believed in Him caused him to come to invite Jesus to heal his dying daughter at his home. Luke and Mark tell the story when Jairus' daughter was dying (Luke 8:40-56; Mark 5:21-42), whereas Matthew's account started when Jesus got into action when Jairus first contacted Him. Jesus accepted the invitation and was on His way to Jairus' house when two things happened. He

was abruptly interrupted by the woman with the issue of blood. Secondly someone came from the house to discourage Jairus from bothering Jesus because his daughter had died already. Upon hearing this, Jesus encouraged Jairus and still went to the house with him. By the time they got to the house the girl was really dead and mourners were performing their usual rituals. And when Jesus said the girl was not dead but sleeping, the crowd laughed because they knew she was really dead. How many times have you laughed at a given situation when the Word of God spoke contrary to what you know? It should be the time to believe God rather than laugh in mockery of God. For with God, all things are possible! Jesus knew however that her death was not permanent, for He was about to raise her up from death. So when he had put out all the doubters, Luke concluded that “He took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

The take home message is that Matthew desires that we understand that your faith as a follower or believer (Christian) is always honored by Jesus Christ to grant your requests. Do not be discouraged when people label you unclean and when your miracle is delayed or interrupted abruptly by another person’s miracle. Your might even be a bigger or greater miracle; only keep your faith in Jesus! This is the word of God for the people God; let God’s people say, Amen!!

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The early Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee after the Sermon on the Mount reflected the following:

- The Healing of a Leper – a miracle occurring and the process involves request, response, resolution, and restriction and/or responsibility.
- The Healings at Capernaum – Showing Christ is interested in our complete deliverance - sin, sickness and death so that we can serve Him and others.
- There is a price tag in following Jesus that you cannot afford to be impulsive or reluctant but dedicated in your commitment to follow Jesus.
- The storms are calmed at the word of His command and peace is restored!
- Two demon-possessed men were restored!
- The forgiving and healing of a paralytic man
- The call of Matthew, the disciple
- Jesus questioned about fasting
- The raising of Jairus daughter and the healing of the woman with the issue of blood.
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

Do you know this Jesus who transforms you through cleansing and/or healing to be accepted by the society of believers? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God’s kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.