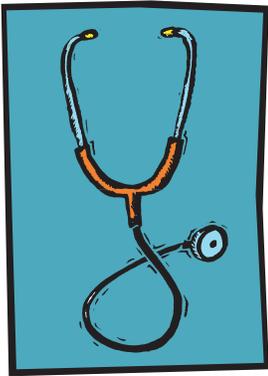




A Doctor Comes to Heal the Sick

Luke 5:27-32



In two simple statements, Jesus made it clear that He had not come to entertain the religious people of His day. He had come to make a way for sinful people to become right with the perfect God.

Day #1: Where You Belong

Where would you find a doctor? You wouldn't look for a doctor in a police station or grocery store. In fact, you wouldn't look for a doctor where any healthy people are. You would look for a doctor in a hospital, of course. Why? (Because that's where the sick people are!)

A doctor has the knowledge to treat people who are sick or injured. A doctor *belongs* where he or she can help those who need medical care.

You probably are not a doctor. But if you are a kid in God's kingdom, you have even greater knowledge than a doctor!

✝ *Thinking about (God's) teachings gives me better understanding than my teachers, and obeying (God's) laws makes me wiser than those who have lived a long time. - Psalm 119:99-100*

You have the knowledge of how to have eternal life! (Matthew 13:11)

If a doctor belongs in a hospital, where sick people need him, where does a kid of God's kingdom belong? He or she belongs where lost people are!

* Where do **you** belong? Do you spend most your time with believers? How can you spend time with people who don't know the Lord? Discuss the places you go (or should go) so you can share what you know with those who need to know Jesus.

Jesus said, "I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow Me. I have come to get sinners to turn away from their sins." (Luke 5:32)

Day #2: Share the Cure

What would you think of a doctor who had the cure to a terrible disease, but did not give it to his patients? What if he just couldn't find the time to tell his patients about the medicine? What if he was busy with other things? What if he spent all of his time with his friends who were already healthy?

You would certainly think this was a waste. This doctor would be wasting the cure that he was given. In a very similar way, we would be wasting the truth that we were given if we did not share the secret of God's kingdom with others.

Now imagine a doctor who **did** give his patients the awesome cure for their disease. How would it feel to hand a life-saving cure to a desperate patient? **Which doctor would live a more joy-filled life?**

Similarly, we can offer the "cure" for separation from God by taking the time to get to know someone who does not know Jesus. Relationships are key to sharing Jesus' truth with others. You don't need a prepared speech. Just care about the person, and God will give you the opportunity to share seeds of truth with them.

✝ *God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to Him. So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making His appeal through us. - 2 Corinthians 5:19b-20a*

* Which "doctor" would you rather be? Remember which doctor lives a life filled with joy!

Who is it that God has put in your life right now that needs to know Jesus? If you don't have this type of friend, pray for God to give you one. If you do, pray for that person right now.

Day #3: Love for Sinners

Who do you love most in the whole world? Maybe it is a family member, or a best friend, (or maybe even your pet). Think about that person and the warm feelings you have for him

Day #3 continued:

or her. Think about spending time with them and how much you miss them when you are apart.

Now, just think: Jesus loves each sinner even more than you love that person! Jesus loves those who fail, and those who mess up. He loves all people completely. Jesus does not love according to who we are or what we do. He loves us because He is love (1 John 4:16).

We don't have to take anyone's word for it; we have proof that Jesus loves sinners!

 *But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* - Romans 5:8

Could there be any greater show of complete, unearned love than that? Before we cleaned up our act, before we behaved right, before we stopped sinning, Jesus willingly laid down His life for us.

And since Jesus loved us while we were still sinners, how could we treat others any differently? We who have God's Holy Spirit in us should love sinners just as Jesus does.

 You NEVER have to doubt Jesus' love for you - even when you mess up. Jesus would rather die than spend eternity without you! What words can you say to Him for this amazing love He has for you? Pray and tell Him your thoughts.

Day #4: A Few Good Men

Jesus taught and helped thousands of people, yet He had a small circle of special friends. Though He welcomed everyone who came to Him, He had 12 men that He was very close to. These chosen men were the ones that Jesus had a deeper relationship with.

God certainly wants us, His people, to be kind to everyone. We should talk to people, care about them, pray for them, give them godly advice, and help them - no matter who they are or what they believe. In this way, we have the opportunity to influence them with Jesus' love. They may see our love and want to know more about the kingdom we are a part of.

But we cannot allow everyone to influence us. As believers, we base our beliefs and actions on

Day #4 continued:

God's word. Like Jesus, we should have a circle of close friends. We should only allow those who are in the kingdom, and abiding with Jesus, to affect the way we think and the things we do.

 *Just as iron sharpens iron, friends sharpen the minds of each other.* - Proverbs 27:17 CEV

We should influence many, but we should have a small circle of friends who influence us.

 List the names of your friends and family who are in your closest circle - those who should influence you. Is there anyone whom you are trying to influence, but not be influenced by?

Day #5: Refuel

What do your parents do when the gas in their car gets low? They stop at a gas station to fill their gas tank. Once their tank is full of gas, the car has the energy it needs to go. Prayer is sort of like the "filling station" for our souls.

Jesus makes it very clear that we should help others, especially the lost. He, Himself, was the perfect example of feeding the hungry and visiting the sick. But even Jesus needed to spend time with His heavenly Father.

 *The news about (Jesus) spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* - Luke 5:15-16

Praying does several wonderful things. First, it helps us focus on our heavenly Dad. When we praise Him, we realize His unlimited power, which gives us the strength to love and serve others. And when we pray, we hear from God and find out exactly what He wants us to do. We can do far more when we are doing the things He wants us to do. And prayer helps us see with kingdom eyes. Through prayer, we see people as God sees them. They are His creation, and He loves them.

Like gasoline in a car, prayer fills us with energy. Time with God gives us the strength and creativity to love others.

 Don't forget to refuel in prayer so you can have what it takes to love others fully, and lead the lost to Jesus.