

the gospel Jesus' good news for all

noun | Greek εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion)

We'll be continuing in our good news series this Sunday by looking at two passages on healing—one with regards to demonic oppression and the other with regards to physical ailments. Please continue to encourage your folks to invite others to this series as we'll be inviting all people to encounter and experience Jesus' good news in practical ways.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION: Mark 1.21-34

Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. **22** The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. **23** Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, **24** "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" **25** "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" **26** The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. **27** The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." **28** News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Jesus Heals Many

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. **30** Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. **31** So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. **32** That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. **33** The whole town gathered at the door, **34** and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Notes:

- In both passages we see Jesus demonstrate authority over demonic oppression/impure spirits and over physical ailments. Freedom from such things, then, is a physical manifestation of the kingdom of God being near. In other words, the good news is freedom from both demonic oppression and physical ailments.
- Of course not every prayer for healing gets answered, or answered right away, but the hope tonight is to lead folks towards stepping out to pray for healing.
- In last week's text, we saw that in order to experience the kingdom of God in full we have to choose to step in to believe that the kingdom of God is indeed near. Likewise, with regards to physical healing, we have to step in to believe that God heals and to contend for healing. Not doing so will make it difficult for us to experience this aspect of Jesus' good news.

Introduction Question: Have you ever witnessed any kind of miraculous healing?

Recap last week's curriculum along with the sermon: What is the good news?

Answer: That the kingdom of God is near.

Small Group Discussions: Break into groups of 3-4 and assign each small group either the passage where Jesus drives out an impure spirit (vv. 21-28) or where Jesus heals many (vv. 29-33). Have each small group answer these key questions:

- What do we learn about Jesus?
- How is the kingdom of God demonstrated as being near here?
- What do we learn about Jesus' good news?
- How is this good news for us today?

Large Group Discussion: Come back together and allow the small groups to share what they discussed and learned from these texts.

Healing Prayer Time: In these two passages we see that Jesus' good news is freedom from both demonic oppression and physical ailments. To put this into practice, let's pray for healing right here in our lifegroup tonight! Break up into groups of 3-4 and give folks a chance to ask for healing prayer. If no one has a prayer request, groups can begin to pray for others they know who need healing.

Encourage people (especially if they experienced healing tonight) to bring Jesus' good news to others this week by praying for healing when they encounter those in need of healing.

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