

Week of January 8-14

PACKAGE DEAL

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew chapter 8

A few years ago, our leadership team spent some time praying and reflecting on and, then, developing a purpose, vision and mission statement for our church. We concluded that the Lord had called Calvary Assembly to do and be the following:

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To glorify God through the power of the Holy Spirit by ministering His grace and the truth of His Word so that people may experience wholeness in Christ and share it with others

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as a catalyst for wholeness in our community by providing deliverance, discipleship and restoration ministries in the context of loving and authentic relationships with God and with each other

VISION STATEMENT

To be a place of hope, healing and wholeness in Christ

You'll notice that the idea of "wholeness" permeates these statements. It's what we are about as a church body, ministering God's wholeness through the power of the Holy Spirit to a world in brokenness. It's what Jesus was about as well.

Following his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus launches into a ministry of healing as recorded in today's Scripture reading in Matthew 8. The chapter opens with Jesus first curing a man with leprosy. This scene is followed by Jesus healing a centurion's paralyzed servant. After this, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law of a fever and, then, that evening, multitudes are healed of their diseases and others are set free from demonic possession.

Matthew sees this ministry of Jesus as being a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy given by the prophet Isaiah, "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." Isaiah's prophecy comes from Isaiah chapter 53, a section of his book that focuses on the suffering servant who would offer up his life for our sins. By connecting Jesus' ministry to this passage, Matthew connects healing to the atoning work on the cross. It is Jesus' death that makes salvation possible. It is Jesus' death that makes healing and wholeness possible. It is a package deal wrapped up in the cross.

Action Step: Spend some time today doing two things: 1) Thank the Lord for his death on the cross and for your salvation and healing. 2) Ask the Lord to reveal to you areas in your life where his wholeness has not yet reached.

Prayer Focus: For healing of those broken areas in your life

Take-a-way: *Jesus' death brings both wholeness and holiness.*