



Week 6 – God Among His People.

The text this week gives us our first look in the bible at the ministry of Jesus here on earth. We are going to consider a few of the things that set Jesus apart and what they reveal about the nature of our God.

Read our text for the week, Matthew 4:23-25, noting the beginning phrase of all three verses.

Read Exodus 29:45-46. What characteristic of God the Father is on display in Jesus from how we see him acting in this first description of his ministry?

Read John 1:14-18. From this text, what is a significant reason for Jesus' coming in the flesh? How does what John says about Jesus' purpose compare to how Jesus began his ministry? How was Jesus accomplishing what John describes?

Consider the Roman and Greek gods of Zeus, Apollo, Jupiter, etc. What stories do you remember about them and where they lived? Consider the ancient middle eastern gods of Baal and Moloch, or the Aztec and African tribal gods. What did they demand of their followers? How does Jesus differ in relationship to us from the Roman gods or tribal gods?

The emphasis in Matthew 4:23-25 is certainly on healing. As we heard in the message, part of the purpose of the healing was to fulfill prophecy, and to validate the teaching of Jesus. People had to take seriously what Jesus said because it was authenticated with powerful miracles. But Exodus will give us another indication of healing's purpose.

Read Exodus 6:6-9. Summarize the "good news" that Moses is telling the people in verses 6-8. According to verse 9, could the people hear the message Moses had for them? What was preventing the people from being able to respond to Moses' preaching?



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Have you ever been so distracted or wrapped up in your own struggles that you couldn't really listen to what God had to say to you? Do you know anyone who is unable to listen to the gospel because of what is going on in their life? According to Jesus' example what can you do to make the gospel more accessible to them?

What are the people Jesus is meeting suffering from? How are they enslaved? In what ways does this reflect the community we live in? If Jesus was visiting Haliburton or Minden, who would be the people lined up to see him? Would they be willing to listen to his message after meeting him? If we apply the reality that both Moses and Jesus faced to our evangelism today, what do we as a church need to be doing in our community?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. What is the connection between the ministry given to us in these verses and the ministry of healing? If we are ambassadors for Christ, how should we reflect Christ in this ministry?

What ministries are you aware of at Lakeside that would meet the criteria of offering healing, hope or support to those who are suffering? What are opportunities to increase these existing ministries? What need in our community is not being met? Is there an existing or new ministry that you or your LifeGroup share a passion for? How can you et involved?

This account in Matthew is of miraculous healing form Jesus. Let's take a brief look at healing in the new testament and how it is a part of the church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:9 and James 5:14-16.

Paul says that healing is a gift that is given to some believers, and James says that the elders of a church can also pray for healing. There seems to be both a specific and a general presence of healing in the body of Christ. Do you know anyone with a special burden to pray for the healing of people around them? Do you have examples of prayers for healing being answered?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 1 Timothy 5:23, Philippians 2:26-27, and 2 Timothy 4:20 are a few examples of illness present in the early church. Sometimes God healed, and other times illness remained.

James 4:15, and Paul's account give us the right way to understand how to pray for healing to respond to God's answers.

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