**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 29 June 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke** **4:38-44**

**(NIV)**

1. Why did Simon request that Jesus come to his house?
2. Jesus healed this woman by doing two things, what were they?
3. What did Jesus do after he healed the sick and cast out demons?
4. How did Jesus communicate His purpose for why He was sent to the earth?
5. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to communicate His purpose?

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**Luke 4:38**

 **38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.**

Why did Simon request that Jesus come to his house?

1. Peter was married. Paul confirmed this when he defended the right for men and women to be married and serve in ministry

**1 Corinthians 9:5**

 “Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”

1. The condition of Peter’s mother-in-law is also recorded in **Matthew 8:14-15** and **Mark 1:30-31** also.
2. Luke, the physician, is the only writer that indicates the seriousness of her condition: “Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a **high fever**”
3. Jesus came to Simon Peter’s house after the people interceded for Peter’s mother-in-law

**Luke 4:38b**

“and they asked Jesus to help her.

**Mark 1:30b**

 “and they told Him about her at once”

1. Intercession (Greek: entunchana *[in-to-kar-no]*) which mean to *come between another*
2. The people of God (the Church) are to intercede for one another and the community/world
3. Interceding for the community/world:
* Moses for Israel—**Exodus 32:30-32**

 30 “Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

 31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!

 32 "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin-but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

* The Apostle Paul for the Church at Ephesus—**Ephesians 1:15-16**

 “15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers”

1. Interceding for an individual:
* A Man of God for King Jeroboam—**1 King 13:6**

 “Then the king answered and said to the man of God, ‘Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me,

that my hand may be restored to me.’ So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.”

 Why should we pray for one another?

* We are commanded to pray—**Luke 18:1**

 “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”

* Paul encouraged all believers to pray—**Ephesians 6:18**

 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”

1. Interceding is one of the most powerful tools the church has:
* Peter miraculously released from prison—**Acts 12:5-10**

 5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

 8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."

 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

* The Community of Faith depends upon one another to Pray for each other—**James 5:13-16**

 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

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**Note:**

 The **sick** should call for the Pastors, Elders, Certified Lay Ministers, Church Lay leader or a Lay Servant of the church, asking them to pray for their need.

* Instead of complaining or murmuring pray to God.
* The person in need is responsible for requesting prayer. Hesitancy will make circumstances worst.

 When prayer is offered, one should anoint the sick person with oil in the name of Jesus Christ

* This anointing with oil represents (1) Seeking the best medical attention possible (2) The Holy Spirit’s presence and power for healing.
* When Jesus sent His disciples out to heal the sick, they also had oil—**Mark 6:12-13**

 12 So they went out and preached that people should repent.

 13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

* When Jesus spoke the Parable of the Good Samaritan, He also mentioned the oil of compassion—**Luke 10:33-34**

 33 "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

 34 "So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

* According to some biblical scholars, the word for **anoint** here is not the usual one used in the New Testament, but has more of a medicinal meaning to it.
* Oil was and is frequently used in the east as a means of cure in very dangerous diseases; and in Egypt it is often used in the cure of the *plague*.
* Even in Europe it has been tried with great success in the cure of *dropsy*.
* And *pure olive oil* is excellent for recent wounds and bruises.
* James was directing them to use the oil for medicinal purposes, while looking to God for his blessings through the natural means of medicine

 **James 5:15-16**

 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

* James encourages believers to pray [intercede] for others in faith, but leaving the entire matter in God’s hands.
* God does not grant immediate healing for every prayer of faith and the reasons are hidden in the heart and mind of God.
* The best approach in praying for the sick is to pray with humble confidence that they will be healed according to God’s will.

**James 5:16**

 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

* We confess to one another when appropriate. Confession is good, but must be made with discretion. An unwise confession of sin can be the cause of more sin.
* However, James is not saying that a person’s sickness is the direct result of some sin that has not been dealt with.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

* James is pointing out the effective nature of prayer is fervent, which in this context, is strong.
* It is faith in God Almighty when the power of prayer is granted.

 *“Much of our prayer is not effective simply because it is not****fervent****. It is offered with a lukewarm attitude that virtually asks God to care about something that we care little about. Effective prayer must be fervent, not because we must emotionally persuade a reluctant God, but because we must gain God’s heart by being****fervent****for the things, He is fervent for.”*

 ***(Enduring Commentary)***

* James declares that an effective prayer is offered by a righteous man.
* A righteous man is someone who recognizes the grounds of his righteousness reside in Jesus Christ, and whose personal walk is generally consistent with the righteousness that he/she has in the Savior. This is why it avails much.

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Jesus healed this woman by doing two things, what were they?

**Luke 4:39-41**

 **39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.**

1. Peter’s mother-in-law immediate response to her healing
* She gets up and serves Jesus and others

 What motivates you to serve the Lord?

 What should be one’s response after their encounter with Christ?

 Should they be allowed to serve so soon?

**Luke 4:40-41**

 **40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.**

 **41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.**

What did Jesus do after he healed the sick and cast out demons?

**Luke 4:42**

 **42 At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.**

 Why was this get-a-way to a solitary place so important for Jesus?

 What does this say about the nature of ministry?

 How would you encourage your spiritual leaders [officers of the church] to follow Jesus’ example?

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to communicate His purpose?

**Luke 4:43-44**

 **43 But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”**

 **44 And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.**

* What is your purpose?