

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 9:9-13

June 10, 2018

Avoid spiritual malpractice! Follow Jesus. Learn from the Doctor.

- ❖ Our doctors take an oath *to do no harm*.
 - Malpractice: do harm by neglect, ignorance, carelessness, arrogance
 - Results: lifelong injury, disability, or even death - sad & serious
 - ❖ Jesus trains us, his follows, to practice spiritual medicine - *to do no harm*.
 - Malpractice: do harm by neglect, ignorance, carelessness, arrogance
 - Sad & serious results: untreated life of illness leading to eternal death
- Avoid spiritual malpractice! Follow Jesus. Learn from the Doctor.**
- ❖ Challenge: *How to rescue sinners from sin without going soft on sin?*
 - The Pharisees thought they took sin seriously and Jesus didn't.
 - ♦ They called Matthew *unclean* for his association with Gentiles.
 - ♦ They quarantined sinners to keep the rest healthy.
 - The good doctor Jesus exposes their malpractice.
 - ♦ ***It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.***
 - ♦ ***...go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'***
 - God has a heart for the pitiful *sick-with-sin* condition of all people.
 - **God's mission is to cure our sin** - to undo the Fall
 - God's medicine: his mercy **not** our religious works
 - **Mercy never minimizes** the seriousness of the sin condition.
 - It doesn't call sick "normal" or "healthy"!
 - That's neglect, foolishness, ignorant!
 - Likewise a good doctor doesn't yell at the sick for being sick!
 - That drives them away from care.
 - All people are sick and need the care of Doctor Jesus.
 - In mercy Jesus invites us to his clinic for his care. *Follow me.*
 - ❖ Avoid Spiritual Malpractice. It's deadly!
 - **It's malpractice to look down on the sick**
 - ♦ Confident of their own *righteousness* - judge: *we vs. those people*
 - ♦ Each of us - watch out for this *false white coat medicine*
 - ♦ It blinds us to our own sin. Results: false hope or utter hopelessness

- **It's malpractice to accept and normalize sin** in the name of love/mercy
 - ♦ Jesus' mercy never makes us feel OK or good about our sin!
 - ♦ **Sin is bad.** It separates from God, blinds, burdens, controls, crushes, it's cancerous... Despair, empty, hopeless, robs of life, lasting joy & peace
 - ♦ Fools look for such a *doctors* - do it to others and self - masks illness
- ❖ Doctor Jesus trains us to practice sound spiritual medicine
 - Good News: ***For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.***
 - ♦ Are you sin-sick? Jesus is your doctor.
 - ♦ His mission: He came to *call* you to himself for healing.
 - God's calls of Moses, Paul and Matthew show us:
 - ♦ Only those who give up on themselves, humbled by their sin...
 - ♦ Only those who've tasted God's invitation to be raised to new life...
 - ♦ Only those who know their sin and God's healing, can practice this.
 - Seek treatment from Jesus day in and day out.
 - ♦ Daily see sin's sickness so you daily seek Jesus' remedy.
 - ♦ Be cleansed by Jesus' blood, made new, released from sin's grip
 - See your sin, while seeing your new identity as saint in him
 - Life is putting off sin, and putting on Christ to grow Christ-like.
 - Using Jesus' spiritual medicine also creates empathy for the sick.
 - ♦ Like our heavenly Father, our hearts go out to them. We know.
 - ♦ Mercy known leads to mercy shown.
 - ♦ We embrace and welcome them to bring them to our doctor Jesus.

Follow Jesus. Learn from the Doctor.

Spiritual malpractice harms yourself and others. Daily experience the healing, health, rest, wholeness, and life only Jesus can give.