

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Matthew 9:9-13
June 21, 2020

Taste, See, and Share Jesus' healing mercy.

Church discipline refers to the work of believers when they¹

- a. ___ punish people for sinning.
- b. ___ train each other and encourage each other to be faithful disciples of Jesus.
- c. ___ get rid of bad church members who would ruin the reputation of the church.

The Pharisees would answer a. & c. Why? Law-based religion, considered themselves pure and righteous. They didn't know God's mercy. Do you?

Taste, See, and Share Jesus' healing mercy.

- ❖ **Taste** Jesus' healing mercy for yourself.
 - Matthew (gift of God) - also called Levi
 - ◆ Excluded from the synagogue for working for the Roman gentiles
 - Chose this profession, knowing he'd be excommunicated.
 - ◆ Longing for: God - release from sin and guilt - peace and joy.
 - ◆ Aware of Jesus, his message, Jesus' heart for outcasts like him
 - ◆ Longing for the help Jesus offered. Called, he followed immediately
 - ***A bruised reed he will not break. A smoldering wick he will not put out***
 - ◆ Just the opposite of the morality police (judge & executioners)
 - ◆ Jesus, the physician with a gentle bedside manner - compassion
 - Those crushed by sin, burdened with guilt and shame, know it's my own dumb foolish fault - no excuse or blaming others.
 - With the compassion of one who has been tested and tempted like us (yet never sinned) Jesus deals gently with us to bring divine healing.
 - His total full forgiveness removes the infection of guilt & death
 - He administers hope that heals, peace that replaces pain.
 - His love reveals the source, meaning and purpose of life. (not sin!)
 - Jesus says, *follow me to daily taste my healing mercy for yourself.*

As we saw last Sunday, a *little Bible "knowledge"* can be dangerous.

- *judge not* turns into *Jesus accepted sinners "just as they are"*
- Extremes: *morality police* vs. *be kind, live and let live*
- This misses: ***The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.***
- A caring physician **doesn't** say, *If you insist that your sickness is healthy, I'll support that.* Physicians who care tell people the truth. They don't support deadly self-deceptions by sanctioning them as healthy options.

- ❖ **See** what Jesus sees - the pitiful condition of sin.
 - *mercy* sees a pitiful condition, the need for help. It has a heart to help.
 - It is **not** mercy to deaden the pain of sin, so people can sin pain free.
 - Associating with sinners in a way that enables sin is not compassion.

¹ Confirmed in the Faith - Series A, Forrest Bivens & David Valleskey, p. 49.

² Matthew 12:20, quoted Isaiah 42:3, the character of the Servant of the LORD (Messiah)

- What is meant by *sinners*?
 - ◆ *sin* - failure to want and do what is good - what God wants for us.
 - ◆ We all sin daily. **But here sinner** means people who make sin their lifestyle
 - ◆ Their sin is their reputation, repeated without repentance.
 - ◆ Taken captive by thinking, desires, and habits that call evil *good*.
- **Jesus sees:** sin is bad. It destroys self and others. Blinds, enslaves, kills.
 - ◆ That is the pitiful reality of a life without the Savior Jesus.
 - ◆ Jesus rescues with love and forgiveness that wins our hearts.
 - ◆ The more his mercy/love takes over a heart, it's healed - sin loses
 - ◆ Matthew's banquet was a **rescue event**, to rescue sinners **from** sin.
- Anyone who calls a life of sin *a healthy lifestyle* **doesn't** see what Jesus sees!
 - ◆ Anyone who supports a life of sin is sick themselves. That's not mercy.
- ❖ **Share** Jesus' forgiving mercy to heal the hurting.
 - Matthew tasted Jesus' mercy applied to the sickness of his sin
 - Matthew saw the pitiful condition of sin - a sea of people needing help.
 - Matthew was made God's gift, to share Jesus' forgiving mercy to heal the hurting
 - The more we taste the power of Jesus' mercy to daily heal and soothe...
 - ◆ Jesus defines true compassion, showing just how deadly and disastrous a life captive and blind to sin really is, and
 - ◆ Jesus equips us to spot sin's sores, so we can apply his healing balm of forgiveness.
 - ◆ Never excusing sin or - heaven forbid - promoting sin!
 - ◆ Instead rescuing and releasing people from sin's reign & disastrous end
 - ◆ Finding in Jesus the healing that makes us devoted to him as our Doctor.
 - We're not called to keep the church pure of the bad or punish people!
 - Christ's church is a hospital and rehabilitation center for those who know sin's sickness, healing each other with the saving mercy of Jesus.

Taste, See, and Share Jesus' healing mercy.