



Jesus, Healer of Broken Hearts

“...he hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,” (Luke 4:18)

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AM Service
Text: Mark 1:1-39*

Introduction: “Jesus, Healer of Broken Hearts” is the title of our message. Stand as we read **Luke 4:18**, and then we are going to preach through **Mark 1**. This morning we are going to see how Jesus has come to heal the broken hearted. We are looking at the healings of Jesus in the last part of Mark 1.

But first, before Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, specifically in Capernaum, back in Luke 4:18, we have a flashback to Nazareth. This is Jesus’ home town. You would think everybody would love Jesus in His home town, right? Wrong. The last time Jesus preached in a synagogue in Galilee was the first time, and it is recorded in **Luke 4:17-18**, “And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to **heal the brokenhearted**...”. I want to focus on this because of the rest of the Gospel story, this is what Jesus is doing, and you see it in dramatic fashion in Mark 1, which happens not long after Jesus’ reads these verses from **Isaiah 61:1-2** and reveals His purpose for coming to earth. He’s sent to “heal the brokenhearted”. And in Mark 1, there’s a lot of pain and a lot of need.

Before we get into Mark 1, let’s pray.

Prayer for guidance: Father, as we come before you, we thank you that Jesus is our Saviour, but Father, we also thank You that Jesus Christ is our Lord and the Divine Leader of our lives. We want to please Him and approach life as He would approach life. We pray that each of us would decide to be conformed to Jesus in every aspect of our lives here and now, and not put it off till later. Teach us by your Holy Spirit this morning, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

The first thing that Mark wants to get across in chapter 1 is that Jesus is greater than everybody. And that’s important because there’s a whole lot of broken hearted people that cannot help themselves in Mark 1.

The world that Jesus Christ entered into is our world. It is a broken and sick world. We might have more skyscrapers and power grids than in Jesus day, but the people are just as broken and hurting. Jesus is a God full of compassion, full of mercy. Jesus has come to transform the world—partially in the here and now, but one day He will transform all of it completely.

I. **Jesus can heal your broken heart because He’s greater than all.** He’s got more power than anyone on the planet or anyone in the universe because He created the universe.

A. He’s greater than John the Baptist. It says in **verse 7** that John “preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose”. Jesus said that there was no prophet greater than John the Baptist, and Jesus is greater than him. John is predicted to come in Isaiah before the Lord comes to earth.

Verse 3 says he was "The voice of one crying in the wilderness". John wasn't crying for sadness. He was a voice of passion. He cried with passion that they needed to know Jesus! Have you ever said to yourself—I don't like it when the preacher raises his voice. How many of you know someone who gets really uncomfortable if they hear a hellfire and brimstone message? Well, if that makes you uncomfortable, you would not have liked John the Baptist.

Now why would God send someone like John the Baptist, and why does God use those "hell-fire and brimstone" preachers?

Explanation:

- Suppose you're at a street corner and you have your little son in one hand and your little daughter holding the other hand. And all the sudden your little boy breaks away from you and runs into traffic, and the cars are rushing past. That is not the time to reason with your son. That's not the time to be polite. No, you ***cry out!***
- If you are in a building and you hear the fire alarm going off, and you see flames coming down the hallway—you are not going to be too concerned that your family get the proper amount of sleep. You are not going to care what the neighbors think about your wife's matted hair! No you are going to ***cry out!***
- Let me tell you something, when you are gripped by the truth of God in your heart, and you see the desperate need of people, and you've heard from God, there is going to be an urgency.

Now John cries out and gets the people quite riled up about their need to STOP what they were doing. Even though many of them were very religious, they were living their life WITHOUT GOD. What was the message of John the Baptist? "Repent!" Stop what you are doing. You are going in the wrong direction.

Why did John say something so abrupt and seemingly unkind? Well you see, every heart ache, every pain that you've ever felt is a result of your non-conformity to the Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. In fact, the message of repentance is the most compassionate message that there is! If you were to see someone about to kill themselves, what would you tell them? STOP! That's what John was saying! You see "the wages of sin is death" (**Rom. 6:23**). John's message, and Jesus' message were identical. Essentially they were this: Repent! Stop what you are doing because what you are doing is going to send you to hell.

Apparently, God blessed John's message, because everyone wanted to hear it. It was truthful. It was right. The people for the first time were cutting through the religious garbage and seriously thinking about God for the first time. And people were getting baptized! What an exciting scene. People were coming clean and being honest with God and each other.

Remember John is not some fabulous personality. He didn't have the latest fashions, since he was clothed with camel's hair. He didn't impress anyone with his wealth—he was eating locusts and wild honey—not really the diet of a celebrity. The point of John the Baptist's ministry is that he didn't have anything that would normally be appealing to the masses. His main attraction was that people knew he spoke the truth of God.

Application: Is that true about you? Can people go to you and know that while you may not be perfect, you are very serious about God; you have walked with Him, and you've got real answers?

By the way, no matter what you look like now, it's all down hill from here. Have you seen those beautiful pictures from the 1950s celebrities. I like to see what they look like today. I can guarantee they look a lot... different. You need to not put too much time into the

outward part of you. Paul said, "though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16).

So John the Baptist lifts up Christ before the people. He says "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose" (v. 7). This was not self-deprecation on John's part. Some of you struggle with that—John wasn't saying "Woe is me I can't do anything right". He wasn't putting himself down, which a lot of times, by the way, just draws more attention to yourself. Biblical Christianity is lifting Christ up! You know that God is working in your life NOT when you think LESS of yourself, but actually when you FORGET yourself. You may have sinned grievously—but you are where God wants you to be when you see Christ as the one who covers your sin, and you forget yourself in His beauty.

All that leads up to the main message of this chapter. Christ has the power to heal your broken life. How do we know that?

1. **Jesus can do something John can't do.** He can give the Holy Spirit who will perform inward change. John said, "I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost" (v. 8). What John is saying is "I'm putting you in water, and it is a symbol of a greater reality." "Jesus has the power to give you that greater reality. I can show you the symbol of an **outward change**, but Christ can give you that **inward change!**"

Saint of God we can go to Jesus because He's greater than even the greatest prophet that ever lived. He has the power to change us.

B. Briefly, let me say that Jesus is greater than demons and the devil. Jesus is greater than any bad influence on you, whether it be demonic, or bad friends, or whatever. Christ exercises authority over Satan himself a little later on. Throughout this chapter we see Christ exercising authority over demons.

Let me also say what is assumed in the whole Bible.

C. Jesus is greater than you. He's not only greater than anything influencing you from the outside, He's greater than you!!

Not only is He greater than everybody. He's powerful. Jesus can change you.

Second, He is recommended by God Himself. He's trustworthy. He'll follow through. How do we know that? Jesus comes with the highest recommendation. You can be accepted in Jesus.

II. **Jesus can heal your broken heart because He's better than**

all. Illustration: Have you ever been up late at night and they have one of those promotional product shows? They have all these testimonials how this product can do everything, and the way they prove it is to have you listen to person after person attesting to the products trustworthiness. It works! It's good! It's better than all the products!

Well we know that Jesus truly is trustworthy, not only NOT to break your heart, but to HEAL your heart because He has the greatest testimonial of all! He is attested to by God Himself. Now most of us here have a hard time trusting people because we've been hurt before, true or false? Jesus is totally trustworthy. God gives His stamp of approval that Jesus is totally trustworthy! Look at **verse 10**—"straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened [literally tear open], and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 11 And there

came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness” (v. 10-12).

Application 1: You need to remember your new identity is in Christ, and you are just as loved by the Father as Jesus Christ. We see this briefly in Jesus’ baptism. John was shocked that Jesus came to be baptized. But Jesus insisted because He was living life in our place. He was humbling Himself for you and for me. And what do we see was Jesus’ confirmation for His ministry? He was publically identified as God’s Son and loved by the Father!

Application: Some of you are broken hearted because you’ve never gotten that confirmation from your mother or father or spouse. You want to hear that you are valuable—that there’s a meaning and a purpose to your life. That they love you. Some of you are living under the dark shadow of harsh words that have done great harm to you by the ones you love. Listen, as Christians, there is only One Person we are called to please, and He loves you! He gave His life for you! There are no merit scholarships with God. There’s only one way to be accepted. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1 that we are “accepted in the Beloved [One]” (**Eph. 1:6**). If you are God’s child, then God says, “You are my beloved daughter, and I am pleased with you”. You need to stop living trying to please other people. That’s why most of us get broken hearts. We become used and abused and thrown away. But Christ will never use and abuse you. He says, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you” (**Heb. 13:5**). It doesn’t matter what others think of us. It matters what God thinks of us.

III. **Thirdly, Jesus can heal your broken heart because He’s been through it all.** You say, “How can God understand what I’m going through? He’s way up there ruling the universe. He can’t understand my plight.” Actually, God became a human being and He’s been through all that you’ve been through, only worse.

Look at **verse 12**, “And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.” Sometimes when the Spirit of God has full control of your life, it means life gets a lot harder.

In **verse 12** we see Christ is tempted by the devil and Christ wins!

Application: Some of you think, wow, Christ’s identity in my life means I’m accepted in Christ. And since God loves me as He loves Christ, since I’m accepted in Him, then life is going to be really easy because God wouldn’t want me to suffer. I mean if I were God, I wouldn’t want me to suffer. Well, first of all you and I are not God. Sometimes we think we are God, and that is our biggest problem!

Yes it is true that as a child of God, God loves you. But that doesn’t mean God doesn’t want to use suffering in your life for a greater purpose. According to **verse 12**, it was the Father’s will that Jesus suffer. Do you think God did not love Jesus? The Spirit came down from heaven and rested on Christ, and immediately led Christ to a place of suffering. That’s what happened with Jesus.

You see God’s love is not a pampering love. God’s love is a perfecting love. Everything God has for you in this life as a Christian is for your good. What is good? According to **Rom. 8:28-29**, God’s very best for you is anything that makes you into the image of Christ. Jesus said in **John 15:2**, “every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth [prunes] it, that it may bring forth more fruit”. God’s going to cut back the dead parts of your life, just like a good gardener

would do on a grape vine he loves. God loves you—but it's not a pampering love—it's a perfecting love. It's a pruning love.

Application: You say, you don't understand what I have had to deal with! Listen, He's been through it all! Jesus had to deal with the devil himself! **Verse 13**, "And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." The Gospel of Matthew goes into great detail as to how Christ was tempted, but **Hebrews 4:15-16** tells us why He was tempted, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." He won over Satan's temptations so that He could pray for you. You say, well it was easy for Christ, He made Lucifer. But you must realize that Christ willingly chose not to use His deity and faced Satan in His humanity so that you and I could know that victory is possible. And when He was tempted He used the Word of God, which is what we are to do. Every time Christ was tempted He quoted Scripture.

Illustration: When my Jill's mom was diagnosed with cancer, she had a choice between two doctors. Both were equally qualified, but one of them at the time had a sister who was suffering with cancer. Which doctor do you think Jill's mom chose.

Listen, Jesus can heal your broken heart because He's been through it all! He loves you and He is your faithful high priest, cheering you on in your Christian life. He's come to free you from your sin!

IV. **Finally, I want to introduce you to the people that Christ came to heal.**

The big point that we get at the end of this chapter is that Jesus cares about hurting people. Now that's amazing because He knows that we've brought a lot of the pain we suffer with on ourselves. We have made hundreds and thousands of choices that do not please God. Yet Jesus shows compassion to all kinds of people.

Sidenote: None of us have the ability to heal on demand, but Jesus had that ability. If He were on earth today, he could empty out the hospitals. Now Jesus didn't heal because that was man's main problem. No, all whom Jesus healed still died. Death is the problem, because the wages of sin is death. These peoples heartaches were all caused by their sin or other people's sin.

1. **Christ cares about Church people.** In verses 23-28 after Christ is done preaching He comes across a man possessed with a devil. And Jesus has compassion on him and rebukes the devil and commands the man to be set free. This man was apparently attending the synagogue for years. He needed Jesus. Sometimes those in the church are the most neglected. We assume everyone in church is fine. Church can be a place to hide. The question is not whether you are going to church. The question is: are you growing and changing in Christ. Christ cares about church people today.
2. **Christ cares about Family.** In verses 29-34, we see Christ after the synagogue service, and he goes to Peter's house in Capernaum, and Peter's mother-in-law is sick with a fever. **Verses 29-31**, "And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them." Now that's seems like no big deal today, but you have to understand people

back then didn't know about infection and bacteria, and you could die of much lesser things back then. This was a serious illness. And our Lord takes the time to go to Peter's family and heal his mother-in-law. Listen, how ever broken your family is, Jesus Christ loves your family more than you do. He's come to heal families. He can do what you cannot imagine.

Illustration: Some of you know that I have a twin sister. I'm often asked "are you identical?" I'm a boy and she's a girl, and people still ask us that. You figure it out. We are not identical. But when you have a twin, you have a great burden that things go well with them. When I came to know Christ, who do you think became number one on my prayer list for Christ to save? My sister! She was messed up at the time. Aren't we all? She was living with a guy who wasn't her husband. She was anorexic and close to death. She was using substances that were addictive. She was broken and hurting. I prayed for her for ten years. And do you think Jesus cared about my twin sister? Yes! And He cares more about your family, your mom and dad, than you do. If you have children, Christ loves your children more than you do.

3. ***Christ cares about your community. Verses 32-34, "And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. 33 And all the city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and **suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him**".***

Once the Sabbath was over, and it was evening, they brought all their sin and diseased. They had to wait until evening because the Pharisees taught it was a sin to heal on the Sabbath unless they could prove the person was terminal.

I don't know that they had them, but if they did they would have emptied out their "nursing homes". If they had hospitals they would have emptied them out to. Remember this is medicine 2000 years ago, there are really no hospitals as we know them today or nursing homes. People are just suffering in their homes. There are some doctors that do their best to take care of people, but this is extremely primitive medicine. People are broken and suffering and they're coming to Jesus. Haiti has better medical care than what these people had.

So they all come to Jesus—those that had been sick for years, the neglected of the society, the physically handicapped, surely the mentally handicapped. They were all brought to Jesus.

There was so much happening, and so much hurt, and so much demand on Jesus, that He goes to His Father early in the morning. Jesus decided that He would get more power from prayer than He would from resting His physical body.

Verses 35-37, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, **All men seek for thee**".

So the whole community was seeking for Jesus. Why? Because He was able to heal them. Now Jesus healed their physical bodies. He cast out devils. He set them free for the moment of human suffering, but Jesus plan is so much more than healing our physical suffering.

4. ***Christ cares even cares about those outside the community—outcasts. Verses 40-42***, “And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41 And Jesus, **moved with compassion**, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.”

Jesus was moved with compassion on the leper. Jesus has come to heal those whom the world has thrown away. Now matter how hated you’ve been, Jesus has come to save you and love you and care for you. He is moved with compassion for you.

Now of course, Jesus told him not to say a word to anyone, but do you think he listened? No! When you’ve been loved by Jesus, you can’t be quiet. Look at **verse 45**, the leper showed himself to the priest as Jesus commanded, “But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.”

You can’t keep quiet when you’ve been healed by Jesus!

Application: I’ll tell you why we have trouble with evangelism—because we are carrying all our cares like the rest of the world. When we let Jesus lift our burdens and carry our loads, then we would have to tell others. When you are loved by someone and cared for by someone in your hour of greatest need, you want to tell everyone about it.

The greatest need that these people had was not physical healing. It was that God would forgive their sin and change, not their outside, but their inside. God can change you. If you are a believer, He’s lined all the hard circumstances of your life up, to make you like Christ. Stop chafing under His tender hands. Stop moving around so much. He’s forming Christ in you.

If you are lost, you need Christ. Christ is the only one that will make sense of the pain you are feeling. He is the only one that will bring an end to that guilt in your conscience about your life. He’s the only one that can forgive you.

Conclusion: There is a very simple conclusion. Christ cares about your situation, and your broken heart more than you care. Jesus is able to heal your broken heart. You may have a broken heart because of the sin of someone else. Someone has hurt you. You don’t understand. I want you to know that God has allowed this hurt into your life for a purpose. Let me be clear, God is not the author of sin. But there God allows the consequences of sinful actions to affect you in order to draw you to Himself as a refuge.

Jesus into a broken, fractured kingdom and He is proclaiming another kingdom. The world that Jesus Christ entered into is our world. It is a broken and sick world. Jesus has come to transform the world—partially in the here and now, but one day He will transform all of it completely. Jesus is the Healer of broken hearts! Come let Him heal you today! He will give you victory over sin. He will give you acceptance that is greater than mother or father or spouse. He is our all in all. Is there anyone that can compare to Jesus? He has filled our heart and healed our broken hearts! Amen!