

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
August 19, 2020

"SICK AND TIRED!"

Jesus answered, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Luke 5:31

Right now, I'm feeling pretty good, but later this afternoon I'll be seeing the doctor. I may not feel as good about myself after he tells me things that I don't like to hear...things I've heard before from other doctors. Having recently moved we are now about an hour's drive from our previous family physician, so we decided to switch to someone closer. Today will be our initial visit. Things have changed some since the time of Jesus, at least in terms of how we make use of doctors and medicine. In Jesus' day medical care was almost completely reactive in that the only time that you'd see a "doctor" was when something went wrong such as an illness or injury. Today we still have reactive treatment, but even more so there is an emphasis on proactive, preventative medical care. We get our annual checkups. We're given prescriptions to lower blood pressure and/or cholesterol even when having elevated levels of either of them cause us no pain or noticeable ailment. In the spiritual/eternal realm things haven't changed a bit from 2000 years ago, nor will they. The context of Jesus' statement above was the question brought up by the Pharisees and teachers of the law as to why our Lord and his disciples ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus went on to say (verse 32) *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."* Here Jesus is attacking the failed foundation of these religious leaders' attitudes and beliefs. They considered themselves to be the righteous ones and that because of this "right standing" with God they had earned His favor. What Jesus is saying here is that if you consider yourself to be righteous, and not spiritually sick with sin, then He has nothing for you! Sin is a cancer of the heart and soul, and everyone has it. The problem is that the symptoms are easy to ignore. Most of the people around us have no idea that they have this type of cancer. They don't want to hear about it, but if it's left untreated the mortality rate is 100%. Sin, all sin, everyone's sin, leads to death and eternal damnation. Sin sentences us to hell! *As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one."* These are the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 3:10. Paul knew the danger of self-righteousness as he was a Pharisee himself and on the fast track to being one of the religious leaders of the Jews when he met Jesus along the road just outside Damascus (Acts 9) and was converted by the Lord into the great evangelist. The good news (the Gospel) is that there is a treatment and cure for the cancer of sin. Jesus is that treatment. *For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (2 Corinthians 5:21) One of the main themes of Luke's Gospel is that of "the great reversal". Jesus in his incarnation comes and takes on the sins of the world. He takes them into his body and dies under their weight. Being raised from the dead he then gives to us his righteousness, his perfection, so that we can stand in the presence of God and be reunited with him as his children. In order to receive this you must come to Jesus. The first step is repentance, that of realizing that you're a sinner and desiring righteousness. The Holy Spirit uses the preaching of the Law to show us our sin and motivate us to seek a Savior. It is then through the Gospel, the proclamation of Jesus as our Savior from sin that the healing begins. While we are still in this mortal life the cure never becomes complete. We remain on a "spiritual chemotherapy" as we remain connected to Jesus through the Word and Sacraments. Upon leaving this life and entering into heaven all sin is removed from us and we are free of its effects forever. No more suffering. No more tears, just everlasting joy, peace, comfort and even glory. I'm also told that there is an eternal feast that we get to attend. I like the idea of endless eating even if my doctor shames me. As the redeemed in Christ, "the Great Physician" I guess that makes us all "Physician's assistants" (PA's) Our job is to give people around us the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, so that they might realize their dire condition and receive the same eternal cure that we have.