

UHPC WORSHIP JULY 7, 2019 HOLY COMUNION

SERMON TOPIC: HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

Specifically included in the gift of our Salvation are the benefits of healing and deliverance. Although Salvation is first and foremost for the forgiveness of sin and for our spiritual well-being, Scripture is clear that it is also intended for our entire wholeness: spiritual, physical, psychological, emotional, and relational. The world is broken by sin, and our Creator desires to restore and to heal us. Our Salvation, healing, and deliverance begins with our acceptance of Christ Jesus as our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord, our acknowledgement of our sin and fallen nature, and our need for God's mercy. Our Salvation, healing, and deliverance was brought near to us and is made available to us in the deity and humanity of Christ Jesus, His body and the Blood of His Cross. HE BROUGHT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN NEAR TO US THAT WE MAY HAVE ACCESS TO HEALING AND WHOLENESS THROUGH FAITH IN HIM.

Jesus came to earth to bring the Kingdom of Heaven near to us. He taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." He went about doing good—preaching, teaching, fulfilling prophecies, healing the sick, delivering the demon possessed, and raising the dead. He came to bring Salvation, abundant and eternal life, through redemption and forgiveness of sins and taught His disciples to go out and do likewise after they received the Holy Spirit to empower them. Not only should they receive this gift, but they had a responsibility to carry out His directive to continue to do what He taught them and saw Him do.

JESUS CAME FROM THE FATHER IN HEAVEN TO EARTH BECAUSE HUMANITY NEEDED HELP TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN THIS BROKEN AND SIN-SICK ENVIRONMENT. FOR WHEN SIN ENTERED THE WORLD, EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE BECAME POLLUTED, CONTAMINATED, AND CORRUPT TO VARYING DEGREES.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believe in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) We could no longer be our best selves as God intended us to be originally. Jesus came to heal, to save, and to deliver the world from its brokenness and to restore us to a right relationship with our Creator. Therefore, we realize that we all need God's mercy, forgiveness, healing and deliverance in various ways, at different

times, and for different reasons. However, we can consider it all as the brokenness of the human condition which needs A HEALER AND A DELIVERER TO MAKE US WHOLE AGAIN. We might say that this journey begins with baptism and continues to mature and develop throughout our life- time. IT IS CALLED: "LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP." IT IS TO BECOME A NATURAL WAY OF LIFE. IT IS TO GROW, INCREASE, IMPROVE, AND USED TO BRING OTHERS ALONG ON THIS JOURNEY. We don't just jump in the water, jump out and go on our merry way back into sin. Sin and a sinful nature do not leave that easily, and it takes time to build faith and to build a new Christlike character. The sin-sick soul is like the affliction of Leprosy. It looks innocent on the surface but can have a debilitating effect in the human life and soul. Only the Blood of Christ Jesus and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit has the power to eradicate our sin and make us new creatures fit for the Heavenly Kingdom.

We have heard the account of a great army commander by the name of Naaman who had the dread disease of Leprosy. He led the armies of the King of Aram successfully against Israel. As it turned out he had an Israeli slave girl in his home who knew of the prowess of the Prophet Elisha in Israel. She knew he could heal her master. When the king of Aram heard of it, he sent a letter to the King of Israel asking that he heal his Army Commander- Naaman. The King of Israel became indignant and tore his clothes because he thought the King of Aram was out of his mind or is trying to pick another war with him. He wanted to know if this man thought he had the power over life and death. Finally, Elisha, the prophet of Israel heard about the matter and told the king to send Naaman to come and see him and he would show him that there was a prophet "par-exellance" in Israel.

Naaman came with his entourage of camels loaded with expensive gifts of gold, silver, and clothing. When he arrived and it was announced to Elisha that the great army commander of Aram was there, Elisha sent a messenger to tell him what to do to be healed. It was this: **"Go down to the River Jordan and dip seven times and he would be healed.** Naaman found this to be very insulting and demeaning for he had better and cleaner rivers in his own country where he could go and be washed clean. He ranted and raved because he thought Elisha should have come out and perform some great fanfare and exposition as he called upon the name of His God, waved his hands, and maybe jump up and down and shout. But no... none of that! This

proud Commander was humbled, and he didn't like it one bit. Prov. 11: 2 tells us that- "when pride comes, then comes shame. But with the humble there is wisdom." Naaman had to be convinced by his servants to obey the prophet and do this simple thing to be healed. This is sometimes how many people have to be begged to accept Christ Jesus as their Savior and Healer---ONE SIMPLE THING FOR THEIR OWN GOOD! It was for Naaman's own good, but pride was standing in his way. Eventually he went and was healed. *** By the way, wasn't the Jordan River where John later began his ministry of baptism for the remission of sin? And isn't it in this river where Christ Jesus Himself was baptized that He might fulfill all righteousness?

We may not think of pride as a disgusting stubborn sickness and sin, but it occurred to me that Naaman needed to be dipped seven times to be cleansed. But when we are dipped in the Name of Christ Jesus... once is enough.

There are many Scriptures in the Bible that tell us about the power of healing in the Word of God. But I would like to raise first the one that points directly to Christ as the HEALER AND DELIVERER. It is found in Isaiah 53:3-5. (Read NRSV.—Pg. 670) Another is Hosea 6: 1-3a (NRSV. pg. 823) . A few others which are significant in understanding the process of healing include Isaiah 58:6-14 (NRSV. pg.675) Psalm 107:20 (NRSV. pg. 548) James 5: 13-16 (NRSV. pg. 1103)

Salvation is our greatest need as human-beings. This is how the Bible tells us we are to encounter the HEALER AND SAVIOR—Christ Jesus our Messiah. It is through this that we come to know Jehovah our God in Trinity, receive the Holy Spirit, and enter the Kingdom of Heaven, develop a life of faith and prayer and receive eternal life and abundant life. However, along life's journey, God grants the faithful some of the earthly blessings that help us to enjoy some of the goodness of God on the earth as well.

Certainly, we have medical science that can help us in our physical illnesses. Still it is God who gives that wisdom to do these things as well. Even in this, prayer and faith are necessary ingredients to help in time of need. And there are times when the LORD chooses to grant miraculous healings as promised in the Bible and as we have often seen demonstrated in many cases. There are times when we stand in the way of our own deliverance due to pride and faithlessness. At times some like Naaman may think that if they have enough gold and silver

they can buy their healing. At other times it is the lack of knowledge of forgiveness and repentance that stand between the Healing power of God and those who desire to be healed. (NRSV. James 5: 13-16) Selfishness, greed, injustice, false worship, etc. can prevent the flow of God's blessings upon His children.

SO TODAY, WE HAVE THE WORD OF GOD PERTAINING TO HEALING AND DELIVERANCE. IT IS LINKED TO CHRIST JESUS WHO CAME TO BRING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN... of WELLBEING, of PEACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH, and WHOLENESS... TO THE WORLD—TO YOU AND TO ME. WE ARE BEING CALLED TO ACTIVATE BY FAITH WHAT CHRIST JESUS HAS BROUGHT TO US FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH IN HIS BODY AND BLOOD, HIS WORD, HIS CROSS, AND RESURRECTION LIFE-GIVING POWER. HE CAME TO HEAL A BROKEN WORLD OF BROKEN PEOPLE. HE CAME TO HEAL OUR SIN SICK SOULS, TO RESTORE US TO WHOLENESS AND PEACE WITH GOD.

LET US TAKE HOLD OF THIS TRUTH AND BEGIN TO APPLY IT TO OURSELVES AND TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF HIS HEALING TOUCH. ASK THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF YESHUA HA MESSIACH --BY THE SAME SPIRIT LIVING IN US THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD, TO HEAL, CURE, AND MAKE WHOLE ALL OUR AFFLICTIONS, SICKNESSES, AND DESEASE. WHY NOT TRY IT? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE? WILL IT CAUSE YOU ANYTHING EXCEPT MAYBE YOUR PRIDE?

MAY THE GOD OF MERCY OPEN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM OVER US AND ANOINT US WITH THE REFRESHING AND HEALING OIL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT NOW. JEHOVAH ROPHE', OUR HEALER, TOUCH US WITH YOUR FINGER OF HEALING, WHOLENESS, AND DELIVERANCE FROM ALL THAT AILS US IN HEART, MIND, BODY, SOUL, OR SPIRIT, WE PRAY. LET IT START RIGHT NOW, WE BESEECH YOU IN THE MIGHTY NAME OF CHRIST JESUS, OUR MESSIAH! WE BELIEVE AND WE KNOW THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN HAS COME NEAR. BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH WE ACCEPT ALL THE BENEFITS PROMISED TO US RIGHT NOW AND FOR ETERNITY. THESE BLESSINGS BELONG TO US WHO ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

BUT IF THERE IS ANYONE HERE WHO HAS NEVER ASKED CHRIST JESUS TO COME AND LIVE IN THEIR HEARTS, NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR SINS AND NEED FOR MERCY, THIS IS THE TIME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT AND ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, THIS IS THE TIME AND THE PLACE NOW. YOU MUST

BE BORN AGAIN FROM ABOVE, CONFESS, REPENT, BAPTIZE, AND FOLLOW CHRIST FROM THIS TIME FORWARD. IT IS A NEW LIFE, A NEW WAY, A LIFE-LONG DISCIPLESHIP AND FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS, HIS PEOPLE, AND HIS CHURCH. THE SPIRIT IS CALLING: "COME AND BUY MILK AND HONEY WITHOUT MONEY AND WITHOUT PRICE! COME AND TAKE FREELY OF THE BREAD AND WATER OF LIFE! COME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO THE KINGDOM AND BECOME A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST!" **JESUS** IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. **JESUS** IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WHO ENLIGHTENS EVERY HUMAN LIFE. **JESUS** IS THE BREAD OF HEAVEN AND THE WATER OF LIFE. JESUS IS OUR MEDIATOR, INTERCESSOR, GREAT HIGH PRIEST. **JESUS** IS OUR REDEEMER, MESSIAH, ALPHA AND OMEGA. **JESUS** IS THE WORD MADE FLESH. HE IS THE RISEN AND ASCENDED SON OF GOD. WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME AND DRINK FREELY OF HIM, LEARN OF HIM, FOLLOW HIM AND SERVE HIM. I SPEAK THE WORD OF HEALING AND DELIVERANCE OVER EVERY PERSON HERE PRESENT. I DECLARE WHOLENESS AT EVERY LEVEL AND IN EVERY WAY IN THIS CONGREGATION. I DRIVE OUT BY THE POWER OF THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS, BY THE EFFICACY OF HIS CROSS, HIS RESURRECTION POWER, AND HIS ASCENSION GLORY ==EVERY AFFLICTION FROM EVERYONE UNDER THE SOUND OF MY VOICE. I BIND IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH EVERY DEMONIC, UNCLEAN, SPIRIT FROM THIS COMMUNITY, FROM EVERY FAMILY GENERATIONAL CURSE, EVERY FEAR, DOUBT OR LACK, SICKNESS OR DISEASE.

AND NOW IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS, I RELEASE IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH ALL THE GOODNESS, PEACE, LOVE, JOY, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON OURSELVES, OUR FINANCES, OUR FAMILIES, OUR HEALTH, HOMES... ETC. FOR WHAT I BIND ON EARTH IS BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHAT I LOSE ON EARTH IS LOSED IN HEAVEN. GRANT, O LORD, MORE THAN WE COULD EVER IMAGINE, ASK OR THINK FOR YOUR STEADFAST LOVE AND MERCY ENDURE FOREVER. THERE IS NO GOD LIKE OUR GOD. BY FAITH WE RECEIVE ALL THAT WE ASK IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS.

AMEN.

Rev. Brenda R. Berry

Pastor/Moderator—Univ. Hts. Presby. Chr.

