

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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February 2022



Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." (Matthew 9:2)

What is our most important need in life? As we cast our daily cares on the Lord, what is foremost in our mind as we cry out to Him who gives life and every blessing? Is it for restored health? Is it for peace in troubled times? Is it for a solution to some problem that is overwhelming us?

Some friends of a paralyzed man brought him to Jesus with a pretty important need. Uppermost in their minds was that he be healed of this physical infirmity, which in so many ways limited his ability to get around and do what he needed and wanted to do – work for a living, visit loved ones, and so on. In so many ways, it left him feeling helpless, relying constantly on the help of others, feeling like a burden. How often he must have called out to God in his weakness, overwhelmed with the troubles of life.

As his friends bore his burden in love, carrying him to Jesus with their prayer and request, what was Jesus' first response? He noted their faith;

and as He looked this man in the eyes He said: *"Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."*

To Jesus, the most important thing He wanted this man to know – even as he was overwhelmed by the troubles and distresses of life in this world – was that his spiritual life and eternal salvation were secure. Jesus could see the greatest burden weighing in the man's heart was the sin he carried before God. Did he perhaps fear he had brought this condition on himself by some sin of the past? Did he fear that God was using this hardship to punish him for his guilt? Was he beginning to feel hopeless that there would ever be a solution to his problems in life, and that God truly would work this all out for his good?

Whatever burden the man may have felt in connection to his sin, whatever doubt he may have felt in his relationship to God, Jesus addressed that first. The Savior replaced all the man's fears and doubts with His Word of absolution: *"Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."* With these words, Jesus assured him that through faith in Him, he was a forgiven and loved child of God. Therefore, all was well for his soul.

Did Jesus also care for his physical condition and needs? Yes, for Jesus went on to tell him: *"Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."* And by His Savior's power he did! (Matthew 9:6-7)

As we cast our cares on the Lord Jesus, He is here to assure us that He care for us (1 Peter 5:7). He understands the troubles and hurts, the doubts and fears, and all the burdens we carry. He knows the healing and strength we need to carry on in life.

First and foremost, just as He did for that man, Jesus wants to assure us that He has given us healing for eternal life through His blood-bought forgiveness. He sees that greatest burden of sin that weighs heavily in our hearts. He sees the guilt, the fear, and the brokenness sin brings into our life. That burden would have left us with no relationship to God, living in fear of judgment, lost forever. But Jesus came in love to bear that most horrible burden away from us to the cross. The Son of God has paid with His own life to reconcile us to God in peace.

Now as our Savior who has passed through death for us and has risen again, Jesus declares to us today: *"Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."* He assures us that, through the faith we have been given by the Holy Spirit, all is well for us. We have a new relationship with God as His dear children. We are loved and cared for by our Father in heaven, who knows our needs even before we ask (Matthew 6:8).

By the same love that led Him to give His life for us, Jesus also cares for us in our daily needs. He hears our prayers. And like those friends of the paralyzed man, we are here to bear one another's burdens in love. We are here to carry one another's needs to our Lord in prayer.

He may not answer with the kind of miracle that immediately removes every problem in life; even

that man He healed would not have a problem-free life in this fallen world. But our loving Savior will give us what He deems best for us, what we need day by day. Like that man, He will give us the strength we need to carry on in life, especially the strength of faith.

How often, His answer may be to provide the help needed as He puts us here to bear one another's burdens. We become the loving hands of Jesus, here to serve one another in love. I can imagine the healed man doing just that, sharing his Savior's love with others, and bringing them to Jesus.

What a privilege we have to come together before our Lord and Savior in worship, where we hear His healing Word of forgiveness, and He sends us forth in His peace and strength to walk in newness of life.

Already, Jesus has answered our greatest need in providing healing of our soul in His forgiveness, and lifting us up in eternal life as the children of God. And one day, in answer to all our prayers, He will bring His work to completion in the perfect healing of heaven. There, we will enjoy perfect health and happiness of body and soul in His presence forevermore.

In His saving love,
Pastor Smith

Watch a monthly message from our Evangelical Lutheran Synod President Glenn Obenberger at <https://els.org/about/blog/>



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Adult Instruction 1:00 PM	4 Adult Instruction 2:00 PM	5
6 <i>Epiphany 5</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM <i>Happy Birthday Eva Brumble</i>	7	8	9	10 Adult Instruction 1:00 PM	11 Adult Instruction 2:00 PM	12
13 <i>Epiphany 6</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship (Baptism of King family) 9:30 AM Baptism Reception / Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17 Adult Instruction 1:00 PM	18 Adult Instruction 2:00 PM	19
20 <i>Epiphany 7</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM <i>Happy Birthday Ana Jay</i>	21 <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	22 Pastors' Meeting 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Klamath Falls <i>Happy Birthday Lucinda Webb</i>	23	24 Adult Instruction 1:00 PM	25 Adult Instruction 2:00 PM	26
27 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (AM 1150 / FM 92.9) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	28	<i>“Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”</i> <i>(Matthew 9:2)</i>				

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