

## Pastor Roy's sermon from July 19, 2015

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

What is healing? What does it mean to be healed?

Jesus has gone viral in Mark's account. He and the disciples can't go anywhere without people bringing the sick and the disabled. The village people have time to go get the sick and bring them to where Jesus is coming, all before Jesus can go from point A to point B. This is a paparazzi not of cameras but of sick beds. The people in Jesus' day have satellite intelligence beat. And all without cell phones, or Facebook, or the internet. According to Mark, Jesus has rock star status. He has love, and power, and faith. The crowds want what Jesus has. Let's give the crowds credit, we think of Jesus as the healer, but the carriers are healers also. They are the hands and feet of Jesus.

And the carriers are being healed—not just the sick people! All this because Jesus is the compassionate good shepherd leader of which Jeremiah speaks, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Jeremiah longs for leaders who love first. Who have the courage to love. It takes guts to love someone who might not love you back. To love your political enemy, your national enemy, your work place enemy. The enemy next door or even within. But what a game changer is true, powerful, compassionate love!

Everybody's involved! Neighbors and family members—the kingdom of God is breaking out all around Jesus because he loves without discrimination. Could that be what healing is? To grow in love? To allow love to guide our steps?

If healing is love, then we cannot be healed without others. There is no healing in a vacuum. And love suggests that healing is needed every day. It is found in relationships. The truth is love in relationship.

I believe a deep healing comes when we appreciate the variety of relationships surrounding us, nurture them, and allow them to grow.

We are not independent. We are not islands, but we are a part. Part of creation. Part of God's mercy. We depend on so many others. Freedom is found in appreciating this inter-dependence, finding my place in it, and not taking more than I give. Sharing. I believe this is healing.

Sometimes folks are miserable because they grasp for and cling to, too much. We all have a tendency to hoard. We fear, we prop up our fear with unholy and unloving attachments which are not life-giving relationships. We cannot do this alone. We need each other. We need to love and be loved.

Linda hunted down and found a poem by Ann Weems which they heard in a sermon at the beach. "Touch in Church." It speaks of our ability to heal and care for one another. Listen...

So let us be healed. Let us heal one another as we sit at the feet of Jesus who loves and heals and gives us life with true freedom. Let us attend to our relationships. Let us be listening. Whenever we become aware of one, let us nurture it in faithful ways. And we will be healed. Thanks be to God. Amen.