LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARNER, NC 7/8/18

 Who Dropped the Ball?

In the Name…

Let us pray….

There are many healings in the Scripture. Healings are one of the things Jesus is good at. There is no getting around that. Yet I bet I could poll all of us and there would be few of us who believe Healings occur in our day. So we are not so different from the people of Jesus’ time.

He goes home. We hear the muttering. They indicate he is the carpenter’s son, and list His relatives, even sisters. The Jesus Himself says how things do not usually go well for someone in his/her hometown. And the conclusion, “He could do no deed of power there.”

Why, Who dropped the Ball? Later Jesus in “amazed at their unbelief”. So could He not work His magic because no one in His hometown believed He could? OR did He just have a bad day? Or maybe the Spirit, it did not move Him. This is soon after He resurrects Jairus’ daughter HEALS a woman He did not even know how.

With regards to healing, have we dropped the ball. Over the years we have prayed for hundreds if not thousands. And only a small percentage have been healed and we usually attribute that the good doctors or medical facilities or treatments. And my prayer always includes doctors and staff who are caring for the sick. So do we really believe God had anything to do with it. I hope so. Even as we pray and bring God into it, there is still a certain amount of unbelief. So is it that God needs human help, does He drop the ball even now? Or is it us who do not give God the credit He deserves.

Don’t get me wrong, I am not saying we are to leave it solely to God praying for God’s healing and rejecting medical treatments. But do we really give it over to God even as doctors are working on healing. Nonetheless, perhaps out unbelief regarding healing is mostly due to the fact such a small percentage are actually healed. We all know several who have beaten cancer, most recently a young Langworthy and notice I say, Beaten or maybe we call them survivors, not have been healed of cancer. Still there are many many more who have not been healed,We see the same correlation between belief and healing in the early church a now. Jesu stated His home town did not believe, therefore there were no healings. Belief equates to healing. There can be no healing without belief.. Then what do we say of those who were not healed. They must not have really believed. Most times when esus heals in Scripture, He says, “Go, your faith has made you well.”

Except for Mark, here we see Jesus’ healing power is significantly compromised. But not entirely shut down. The shutdown is attributed the disbelief of the community. The skeptic are in the synogogue, and maybe even Jesus neighbors were skeptical. And then “They took offense at Him.” Were they offended because He did not have the credentials, did He not have the big name. It comes down here to belief or not. But in the overall picture, it is not that simple.

Other instances in Scripture have healing of persons of no belief in healing or in Jesus and we know just because He was only on foot in His ministry He would have missed some. We DO know that Jesus would have none of the drawing of lines specifying who was in and who was out.

He healed, no raised her from the dead, the daughter of Jairus. Healed the man who sat by a pool for years, lepers ostrocised for years. And yes, He “laid His hands on a few sick people and cured them” even in His home town full of skeptics.

Jesus’ healings wherever they might occur to whomever they might occur, are about love which is central to His ministry and it should be to our ministry. We love those on our prayer list so much that we pray for them but we include what God places at our disposal as well, good health care facilities and providers, and best treatment medical technology has to offer as we say “Send Your Holy Spirit upon those caring for our loved ones and bring about strength and support to family and friends.”

As our Father in Heaven has shown His love o us through His Son and His Spirit, so may we show love to those who are sick and in need by our prayers, care, and support. If we do that, I assure you, we have not dropped the ball, and you know Jesus will not drop the ball.

In the name…