

Kailua Christian Church
Sunday Message
Sun. January 31, 2021
Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson
“Healing, Health and Helping”
Vision for a new season

Healing

***“Where care and recovery from brokenness
can be received from God”***

5 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk Now that day was a Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk’?” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. He said to him, 14 Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because He was doing such things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” John 5:1-17

This morning we focus on healing as part of God’s vision for our lives and for our new season together as His family. I want us to venture into this with humble sensitivity as best we can.

There are some of you who have lived under the distressing agony of long-term pain for yourself or your loved ones. Your prayers and seeking relief from God, doctors, and any idea that came along has not brought the relief from the pain you have lived with over time. My heart and support goes out to you. Over Bev’s journey with cancer these past nearly three years, we have lived with these hopes, questions and struggles with God and ourselves as well. Some of you may have lived with the added pressure of well intending family and friends, maybe even your own beliefs. I’m thinking of that course of thinking that if only you have enough faith, are confessing enough sins, or try hard enough God will heal you. All this has some truth of the make up of being in a meaningful relationship with God, yet none of them are definitive to cause God to heal us. Many of you have lived with the attempts of encouragement that says God has given you these

challenges to help you grow or to rely on God more faithfully. I just don't see God giving pain and suffering as a means of expressing His love and saving of our lives. We manage to bring enough problems on our own, and some of the ailments and brokenness that comes into our lives is more of a mystery as to why. These words and what we may have thought to be encouragement can seem further away from the healing word or work of Christ than closer.

Great pains of brokenness can very powerfully lead us into despair and hopelessness. Pain speaks clearly and loudly, often times unrelenting. I know this very well.

So, with some understanding to the challenges and sensitivities that are unique to each of us, I believe Christ does have hope for us. His help in our journey and healing I find often comes in ways we may not have seen coming, thought possible or imagined, yet is very real and present by His loving care and devotion to recovering our heart, mind and soul.

Miyoko had asked for prayer from the group of the church who gathered to learn how to pray for healing. She had a persistent pain in her neck. Miyoko vulnerably ventured into allowing us to ask God to bring comfort and healing to her. Some of the group asked permission to gently lay a hand on her neck, as we welcomed God's presence, healing and love for Miyoko. It was a tender time that she said was very comforting. In the middle of the prayer, I sensed a whisper that I thought might be from God. All I heard was, "Ask about her brother." I knew Miyoko fairly well, but I didn't know if she even had a brother. So hesitantly, I asked just as we finished the prayer about her brother. With a stunned look, she asked how I knew. I didn't say much, I just listened.

Miyoko went on to share that a great wound between them had festered into deep bitterness over the years, breaking all communication between them. She confessed she had held unforgiveness against him for years. We listened as she shared a bit, openly revealing her pain and suffering. She recognized this was a moment God was wanting to bring healing to her heart. We prayed again for God's loving, forgiving, cleansing and healing work in her heart. When we finished, with tears in her eyes and ours, Miyoko said I think it is time to begin forgiving him and trying to restore their relationship, step by step. What was a pleasant surprise was that she said the pain in her neck was gone. We joked that we understand. Sometimes family can be a pain in the neck, yet God helps us love them.

So, let's see how Jesus words and way may help us come to Him for healing in our own lives.

God's care and recovery from brokenness can be received when...

I. I am open to how and when God is bringing healing.

"Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years." John 5:2b-3

This man had spent 38 years watching a pool for the stirring to be healed. When Jesus came upon him, he could hardly even ask for help. Sometimes we are so focused on how we think God, life and others should be we can miss what God is doing.

- *What pain or challenge might God be asking you to hold with open hands and mind for Him to help you with His way?*

II. I am willing to receive God's healing

“He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” John 5:6b

Jesus didn't ask if he wanted to be cured, but if he wanted to be well. There is always in Jesus way and work to bring healing to our heart, mind, strength and soul. He asks us to love Him with our whole being because He loves our whole being.

Jesus also asks us; “Do you want to be well?”

Jesus invites our participation by our openness, our willingness to be healed. His love is of the nature that does not demand or intrude beyond our will. He asks that we may invite and welcome His love and healing into our lives. We don't heal ourselves, yet even Jesus can't heal what we won't allow or bring to Him with open hearts.

- *As Jesus ask you today, “Do you want to be well?” how do you respond? What is your hope? What is your resistance?*

III. I apply His loving care to what I think, do, say and value

¹⁴Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.” John 5:14

*What is missing in this story? In this man's life? **Gratitude.***

*There is no point that this man simply says thank you. He doesn't thank God or even express to his critics the joy of finally being able to walk, go where he wants, do as he wish. That Jesus came back to the man, was not simply as a scolding. This man's sin was his lack of gratefulness. Jesus knows that **Gratitude** opens our whole being to God and His way in ongoing, new and fresh ways.*

I believe Jesus revealed the persevering love He has that keeps working to bring His deeper healing to how we think, how we humbly respond to good, how we deal with challenges and what we value.

Jesus comes to bring His love to our whole person. Sometimes the pains we live with have a way of opening our hearts, minds and soul to God's healing grace like never before, if we are willing and wanting to be made well.

- ***What are you grateful for? What area of your life could you look at with eyes of gratitude for what God is doing?***