

WS: LET'S REVIEW — Holding phrases for the four Gospels. Memorize the following four statements! These hold the key to understanding the four Gospels.

MATTHEW: Jesus' Teaching Manual for living the deeply satisfied life;

MARK: Our mission is to awaken those spiritually asleep;

LUKE: Jesus and Jesus' message is the same;

JOHN: The meaning of our baptismal experience.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

20 Topic: "Healing" – study page

Luke 8:26 – 39, "Healing of the Demon Possessed Man;" (Split story) Luke 8: 40 to 42a, and 49 to 56, "A Dead Girl;" and Luke 8: 42b to 48, "Healing of a Sick Woman;" Luke 9: 37– 45, "Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit;" Luke 13: 10 – 17, "A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath;" Luke 18: 35 – 43, "A Blind Beggar Healed on the Sabbath."

The purpose of the Gospel of Luke is told in the opening verses in the first chapter, ". . . it seemed good to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." It is this "orderly account" that provides the organization of our study material. This is lesson number 20 of 29.

Read the assigned THEME at one time.

NOTE CONCERNING HEALING:

Traditionally, there are two approaches to the experience of healing.

First, when a literal approach is taken it is necessary "to suspend disbelief." That is, the healing of the blind or the raising of the dead is beyond our ability to believe. This is why it is necessary to suspend disbelief. Or, to say this in another way, the healing described in the Bible are faith statements; it is necessary to surrender your common understanding of what is happening and to observe these events as FAITH EVENTS.

Second, the approach with which I am more comfortable is that the healings, like most of the Gospels, is to be taken as metaphors that point to something much deeper than the extraordinary event. The reason I'm more comfortable with this analysis is that it points to the real sickness as unbelief, the inability to actually and totally surrender our lives to the experience of At-One-Ment. The result often results in psychosomatic occurrences.

I. Luke 8:26 – 39 "Healing of the Demon Possessed Man;" (HEALING DEMON POSSESSION)

NOTE: In Gut Trip Analysis, where do we experience being filled with demons? Where do we experience being filled with health/wholeness? Review vs. 26b and vs. 39. What do you make of the significance of these two verses?

Vss. 26b -- "across the lake." From the perspective of Gut Trip Analysis, this phrase "across the lake" almost always means the place of At-One-Ment, or in traditional language the Kingdom of God. In this instance, Jesus crosses the lake to the other side. Here Jesus encounters the demon-possessed man, a man filled with hopelessness, and is victimized.

Vss. 39 -- "return home and tell how much God has done for you." In this instance "home" represents the normal world, but now the demoniac has his eyes opened to hope and is now how the attitude of a victor.

(Split story) Luke 8: 40 to 42a, "Healing a Dead Girl" (THE INDIRECT HEALING OF DEATH.)

NOTE: The scripture Luke 8: 40 to 56 is two healings, where one intervenes into the other one... For our purposes, we have split them into two separate stories.

Vs. 40—Where had Jesus been? Jesus has been across the lake as a representation of living in the world of our humanness. Where ever Jesus goes he bring hope to the hopeless.

Vss. 49 and 50—Explain what is going on here? In particular, look at the emotional words in vs. 50.

“Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” Recall that in Gut Trip Analysis the word “believe” means surrender. It is surrender that defeats fear.

vs. 55 – Do a Gut Trip Analysis on the words, “Her spirit returned.” Where had it been? What was the experience of the little girl at this point?

Where had it been? It had been asleep.

The girl awakened to her spirit—her spirit always was there. Because she was asleep to it she lived defeated by death. In the presence of The Word (in the form of Jesus), she surrendered her life to this life-giving perspective and awakened to renewed living and life.

There is a danger here. What happens is the daughter stayed dead? Recently, a person had a horrible car wreck and survived. One of the family exclaimed how there were angels who were watching over him. My unasked question might have been, “OK, Where were the angels if he died?” The answer is (drum roll, please) “We stay surrendered anyway.” Those who are awake are those who experience the awakening even where there is no reason to be awakened!

vs. 56 – Why does Jesus tell the crowd not to say anything? What’s going on?

As in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus understands that at the end of the story (the resurrection) everything will be understood.

II. Luke 8: 43 - 48, “Healing of a sick woman” (AN INDIRECT HEALING OF UNCLEANLINESS)

vs. 44 – What happened when the woman touched Jesus? Be careful of Head Trip Analysis, keep it experiential and existential or emotional.

The experience of the woman is that the bleeding immediately stopped. If this story is understood as metaphor, then what are the ways in which people experience hemorrhage? The IHOP struggled with this question and came up with the following list: we hemorrhage in unbelief, illusion, scams bleed others to death.

In Leviticus 15:25 – 30, we read that when a woman had her period and bled, she was “unclean” during this time. Afterward, she went to do a ritual washing in a pool to be made clean again. Likewise, if a man has a wet dream and spills his seed (sperm), he is unclean until he washes in the pool to be made clean again.

In the “Blood Covenant” the ritual shedding of blood (like young David and his friend Jonathan), was a part of the covenanting process. In Revelation we read of being “washed white as snow in the blood of the Lamb.”

vs. 45, 46 – Describe what happened to Jesus when the woman touched him. What’s going on here? The scriptures report that “the power has gone out from me.” This is the experience in which all of us are inter-connected where all things can be plugged into the same source of power. When one more is added, there is the experience of the redistribution of this power. The experience of Jesus is that he is super sensitive to this inter-connection.

vs. 48 – Describe the woman’s “faith” that made her well.

The “faith” she had was discovered in her decision *to surrender* her whole self in Perfect At-One-Ment.

III. Luke 9: 37 – 45, “Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit;

Vs. 37 – Where had Jesus been? Is “the mountain” usually associated with the human situation, or associated with our spiritual resources? Justify your comments.

Jesus was on the Mountain of Transfiguration. Definitely, this is a holy mountain to be associated with our spiritual resources.

Vs. 41 – Why do you think Jesus is angry about the “unbelieving and perverse generation?” How can they take any responsibility for “their generation?”

Spurgeon (website: *Classic Commentaries*) observes that Jesus is addressing the disciples. Spurgeon adds that “only Christians are effective.” From the perspective of Gut Trip Analysis, effectiveness comes from being spiritually awakened. An unbelieving and perverse generation is not spiritually awake. This is why they could not heal (awaken) the boy with an evil spirit. They themselves were not spiritually awake.

Vss. 42 and 43 – What’s going on here?

The “demon” and “evil spirit” can always be associated with helplessness and victimization.. Spurgeon (website: *Classic Commentaries*) notes that the healed son is delivered to his father. Spurgeon’s point is that when people are awakened they are returned into the hands of those who love them as God (Perfect At-One-Ment) loves them. We receive them from the hands of Christ.

D. Vss. 43b - 45 – The subject is changed to the first prediction that Jesus makes concerning his death. Do some commentary research and share what you find out.

John Wesley observes (website: *Classic Commentaries*) that the Christian life is held in a balance between praise and suffering. Spurgeon (website: *Classic Commentaries*) comments that Jesus moved from having people delivered into his hands, rather Jesus delivered himself in their hands.

IV. “Luke 13: 10 – 17, “A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath;”

What does “Sabbath” mean? The IHOP discussed this at length. Their first observation was that Sabbath was a day of rest that comes on Sunday. From the point of view of Gut Trip Analysis, Sabbath is a day of health, wholeness, and healing. Another approach is to consider this “sabbathing.” Our spirit rest comes in the form of participating in activities to bring about At-One-Ment.

Vs. 16 – “Satan!” What is the experience that is pointed to in this designation?

Evil always is The Big Lie that we are victims of our situations. Part of this is true! The human situation is hopeless because it ends in death. The French writer/philosopher Sartre is correct, there is “No Exit.” Satan always is The Big Liar who tells us this lie.

How does your experience of Satan define what happens in Vss. 10 – 17?

The Good New of Jesus is that our situations are not changed, rather the Good News is that we are changed in our relationship to our human situations.

You have a leg removed, this is our human situation. Now, we can be victimized and believe we are crippled. Or, we can transform the situation by affirming that we can be the best one-legged dancer you’ve ever seen. In this affirmation we are changed! In this way we are transformed into Victors!

V. Luke 18: 35 – 43, “A Blind Beggar Healed on the Sabbath.”

How does the following statement help to interpret the experience of the Blind Beggar in Vss. 35 – 43? The one thing God hates is for people to live in an illusion of reality. God created all creation to live abundantly in the indicative, a statement of truth or facts. My definition is to live in The Way Life Is, or in reality.

NOTE: The solution to the problem presented in this story is in vs. 42: “Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”

Remember the old Peanuts cartoon in which Charlie Brown goes to Lucy The Psychiatrist. He complains about being a victim, and Lucy takes him to a top of hill and asks, “What do you see, Charlie Brown.” “The world,” he answers. Then Lucy shouts at him, “WE’LL LIVE IN IT THEN!”

This illustrates that reality is all we have in which to live. Our faith story is that God created reality for us to live in it. When we attempt to escape into some false hope we end up escaping into an illusion, and deny the Good News that we are the one transformed rather than our human situations

Receive your sight! Your surrender has healed you as you embrace reality. “The Way Life Is” is not our enemy.

All right, people. Talk to me.