

#1816
Cf. #458

Mark 1:29-39¹
Jesus has come to preach;
his miracles verify
that his preaching is true.
6th Sunday after Epiphany
Supplementary Lectionary
Series "B," Gospels

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Grace WELS Durand MI
February 16, 2014
Special Voters, \$L

²⁹ As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the Synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening, after sunset when the Sabbath was over, the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak, because they knew who he was.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their Synagogues and driving out demons.

JESUS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT GALILEE ...
I. PREACHING HIS MESSAGE
II. PERFORMING HIS MIRACLES

In the Name of Jesus, who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases (cf. Psalm 103:3),
Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

This morning's text speaks about Jesus' Galilean ministry. Galilee was located north of Judea by about 80 or 90 miles. Between Galilee and Judea where Jerusalem was located, was Samaria. Samaria was a region which the Jews avoided and would not pass through if at all possible, because Samaria had a mix of Judaism and Paganism. We see that the first part of Jesus' public ministry takes place in the northern district of Galilee. Our text tells us ... JESUS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT GALILEE ... I. PREACHING HIS MESSAGE; and, II. PERFORMING HIS MIRACLES.

¹ *The New International Version*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984. All Scripture references are taken from this translation unless noted otherwise.

JESUS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT GALILEE ...

I. PREACHING HIS MESSAGE

Jesus had become quickly popular in Capernaum of Galilee. He appeared in their Synagogue on the Sabbath and taught the people with authority – an authority to which they were not accustomed. The people were used to the Teachers of the Law, who droned on and on about rules and regulations. Jesus, however, proclaimed repentance and the Good News of the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said, “The time has come.... The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News” (1:15). That “Good News” was the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, which God gave through his Son, Jesus. In addition, along with this message of the Good News, Jesus also performed miracles.

The miracles of Jesus did not stand by themselves. Jesus’ miracles verified that what he was saying in his message was true, reliable and trustworthy. But the people were motivated by Jesus’ miracles.

The people wanted miracles. That is why they all gathered after sunset when the Sabbath was over – they all gathered around Peter and Andrew’s house, bringing their sick and demon-possessed so that Jesus might heal them. So the next day (our Sunday morning) following all this miracle work of healing on the sunset following the Sabbath, Jesus went out to pray.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (1:35). Jesus prayed. It was going to be a great deal of work for him to proclaim the Good News. It was going to take resolve and determination. Jesus was tempted to grasp the popularity that would be his if he set aside his message and performed only miracles. It was a temptation to have people regard him as primarily a miracle-worker rather than as a teacher of salvation. Jesus needed strength in order to carry on properly his ministry. Jesus prayed. Strengthened by prayer, Jesus determined to carry on his ministry of teaching the Good News of the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins.

³⁸ Jesus [said], “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their Synagogues (1:38&39a).

Jesus emphasizes that he had come to preach and to teach and to proclaim the Good News – the Gospel of the Kingdom of God – forgiveness of sins by faith in Jesus. So Jesus and his disciples traveled throughout Galilee proclaiming the Good News in the Synagogues of the people.

APPROPRIATION

Jesus has continued his work of proclaiming to you his message of the Gospel of the full and free forgiveness of sins. That is the whole point of attending worship on Sundays – to hear, once again, that all of your sins have been fully and freely forgiven through Jesus.

That is the whole point of reading your Bibles at home and of having family devotions. These worship times continue to bring to you what Jesus proclaimed to the people of Galilee: "The time has come, The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!" (1:15).

Repent! Repent of the many times when, unlike Peter's mother-in-law, you have received Jesus' grace and mercy in your lives, but you have not served Jesus in your thoughts, words, actions, attitudes and behavior. Repent of thinking of Jesus only as one upon whom you call in the time of trouble and turmoil rather than as your constant companion, helper, and Savior.

Repent! Repent of the many times you have not paid full attention to Jesus' Word in worship. Repent of the many times when you have not taken the time to hear and learn and study God's Word at home. Repent of the sins, transgressions, guilt and iniquity on account of which you are condemned by Jesus' Word. Repent and believe the Good News.

Believe the Good News, the Gospel, of the full and free forgiveness of all your sins in Jesus. This Gospel tells you that Jesus' perfect life has been substituted for your imperfect and sinful life. This Gospel tells you that the suffering Jesus endured on the cross has been substituted for the suffering you ought to endure in hell eternally because of your sins. Jesus' life and death is for you, that you may have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and salvation by faith alone in Jesus. The fact that you do have faith in Jesus as your LORD and Savior also reveals that Jesus' ministry of miracles continues.

JESUS TRAVELS THROUGHOUT GALILEE ... II. PERFORMING HIS MIRACLES

The Sabbath (Saturday) worship at the Synagogue was complete. Recall that during that worship service,

²³ ... a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek (1:23-26).

The people were amazed, astonished and astounded by this miracle as well as by Jesus' teaching with authority. And Jesus was not done with his miracles.

²⁹ As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the Synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to wait on them.

Thus, Jesus' miracle working continued. When Jesus, with his disciples, went to the home of Simon and Andrew, he was told immediately about Simon's mother-in-law who was down with a fever. Jesus showed his compassion for her by immediately going to her, taking her hand, and healing her of the fever. Immediately she got up and began to serve Jesus and his disciples.

When sunset arrived on Saturday and, officially, the Sabbath was over,

³² ... the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak, because they knew who he was (1:32b-34).

The events that took place at the Synagogue that morning, revealed that Jesus was a healer – a miracle worker. The people of Capernaum went to the house of Simon and Andrew seeking Jesus' help. Jesus had compassion on them and healed their sick and drove out demons. Jesus healed them all. We also take note of the fact that, once again, Jesus would not permit the demons to speak of him, for the demons recognized that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus wanted that confession to come from the hearts and lips of believers. The attitude of the people concerning Jesus did not change, however.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" (1:35-37).

Everyone was looking for Jesus. They wanted to have from Jesus more miracles. But Jesus had not come primarily to be a worker of miracles by which he healed sicknesses and diseases and drove out demons. Jesus had another, more important, ministry to pursue.

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their Synagogues and driving out demons.

Jesus had come to preach to proclaim. You have already heard his message: "Repent and believe the Good News – the Gospel" (cf. 1:15). Oh, yes, Jesus did perform miracles during his circuit throughout Galilee, and those miracles served to verify that what Jesus was proclaiming was true. The message of Jesus was verified by his miracles.

APPROPRIATION

Jesus continues his working of miracles among us today. Sometimes those miracles include unexplainable healing from diseases – healings which the medical profession cannot explain. In addition, Jesus does bless the work of the medical profession by healing people through that profession. Jesus controls the success or failure of medical practice.

At the same time, every believer in Jesus has experienced a miracle: The miracle of faith.

St. Paul describes the miracle of faith worked in the hearts of believers. He says,

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4&5).

Take note of the miracle that Jesus has performed in you and for you. By nature, you were “dead in transgressions.” But in his great and rich mercy, God made you alive with Christ – God brought you to faith in Jesus. You have been brought from death to life; you have been brought from hell and damnation to faith and Paradise. Jesus has accomplished this miracle in you through the Means of Grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacraments.

Through the Gospel, the Good News of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus, faith in Jesus has been created in your heart. You did not choose to believe in Jesus. You did not bring yourself to faith in Jesus. Rather it was by God’s rich mercy and grace through the Gospel, that you were brought to faith in Jesus – brought from death to life. That is the miracle Jesus has performed in you and for you, all through the Gospel.

Since you have been brought to faith in Jesus through the Gospel, continue in that Gospel. Continue in that Gospel here at worship and Bible study and Sunday School. Continue in that Gospel at home and with your family. Proclaim that same Gospel to your Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances and Neighbors (FRANs). You have the Gospel in Word and Sacraments. Continue in that Gospel and share that Gospel with others.

CONCLUSION

Dear Fellow-Believer in Jesus, you have experienced the miracle of faith in your heart. You were once dead in transgressions and sins and objects of God’s wrath (cf. Ephesians 2:1&3b); but, now, you have been brought from death to life by the Good News – the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus. Through that Gospel, the Holy Spirit has created faith in Jesus in your heart. By that faith, with heart and lips, you call upon Jesus as your LORD and Savior. Continue in that faith by continuing in the Gospel of Jesus, and share that faith with others. Amen.