

Reach Out to Jesus

[Mar 6:53-56 ESV] 53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. 54 And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him 55 and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

I. Intro

- A. Prayer for Teachers and Administration
- B. The Fame of Jesus is increasing and growing.
- C. They draw a huge crowd of people wherever they go, but why?
 - 1. The people are broken and helpless
 - 2. They want Jesus to do something for them
 - 3. They need Jesus to do something no-one else can do.
- D. We are not very different, but what we find is there is more to the relationship than getting what we need.

II. Text

- A. Verse 53
 - 1. The land of Gennesaret:
 - a) North shore of the sea of Galilee, just west of Capernaum
 - b) It is believed by some that the wind and waves sent the boat of course to this port. Same region of the sea of Galilee, just west of the target.
 - c) Gennesaret is a fertile plain that grows lots of crops and has lush great grass.
 - d) It is also the place where you can go today and see something called the “Jesus Boat” it is a boat that was found during a drought sunk, buried and semi preserved and dates back to the time of Christ. So, a common example of the boats that would have been used during this time.
 - 2. This was a place that may not have been there intended destination originally, but ministry was found there as well.
 - 3. John's gospel recounts this as “they arrived to where they were going.”
- B. Verse 54
 - 1. When they got out of the boat, they knew immediately who he was, for His fame had spread
 - 2. We don't always recognize the work of Christ, but I want to be so connected to Christ I know immediately.
- C. Verse 55
 - 1. This was the work of the people: they ran throughout the countryside and brought people to Jesus
 - 2. This is still our task!
- D. Verse 56
 - 1. The method...find out where Jesus is and put people there
 - 2. Then they need to reach out and touch Him and will be healed
 - 3. Jesus obliged

III. Points

- A. Happy Accidents
 - 1. Now, I'm not certain this was an accidental port of call, or completely intentional, but this was not the original port of call for the disciples.
 - a) If Bethsaida was their original destination, Capernaum was 3 miles away, and Gennesaret was another 2 miles or so.
 - b) Wherever they were, ministry was there as well.
 - 2. They may have not intended for this to be the spot, but Jesus was with them and took them there.

3. The people in the region needed Jesus, and the disciples needed to see this ministry.
 4. Ministry may happen differently than you thought it would, but follow Jesus there.
 5. Wherever you are, there is ministry to accomplish.
 - a) In your home:
 - b) In your work:
 - c) In your circle of influence:
 - d) With random people as you go about your day:
 6. The place of ministry may not be the originally intended place, but ministry is still the intended ministry set forth by God when He equipped you for service.
 7. ADAPT, IMPROVISE, OVERCOME
- B. Broken People
1. Wherever you go you will find broken people needing Jesus
 2. However you can, bring them to Jesus!
 3. Build relationships, connect through friendships, get to know people, and you will find they need Jesus!
 4. What percentage of our community still needs Jesus? 100%...we are all in the same desperate need for Jesus every moment.
 5. Some may say: I need Jesus to help me with this big decision that's looming...you need Jesus to be with you when you drive across town!
 6. We all need Jesus, and we all need to bring the broken to Jesus.
 7. How?
 - a) You have a ministry, you have an influence.
 - b) Share Christ with others in your daily walk
 - c) Share your life with others and allow relationships to grow
 - d) The method today is not that different than the method in Gennesaret:
 - (1) Wherever you are, however you got there, you are there for God's purposes
 - (2) Bring broken people to Jesus
 - (3) And when you are the one brought to Jesus, reach out to Him.
 - e) The beauty of ministry:
 - (1) Jesus was the answer to the peoples problems then, and is so today
 - (2) ALL THEY HAD TO DO was get them to Jesus and let Him do the work.
 8. Who are you investing in with the gospel?
 - a) Keep a list in your head, or on a prayer card
 - b) Keep bringing them to Jesus in prayer
 - c) Keep bringing them to Jesus in relationship, making yourself available to them
 - d) Keep bringing them to Jesus through the ministry of the church.
- C. Reach For Jesus
1. Wherever you are, broken people are also there, and they need someone to help them get to Jesus, but sometimes we need to be reminded of our own brokenness and we also need to continually reach for Jesus.
 2. All they had to do was touch the fringe of His garment, all you have to do is draw near to God.
 3. [Jas 4:7-10 ESV] 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
 4. Broken People reach for Jesus and find healing.
 5. Reaching for Jesus in your personal life:
 - a) Develop an intimate prayer life
 - b) Discipline yourself to study and seek Him in His word.
 - c) Serve in ministry and learn to see others the way Christ sees them.
 6. Sometimes we need simple physical reminders of huge spiritual truth:

- a) Open Hand illustration
 - (1) Cling tightly in a fist for a couple of minutes
 - (2) Release the fist and look at your open palms
 - (3) Let it remind you of the futility of clingy tightly to control, and the beauty of release and trust in Christ.
 - b) Spiritual Breathing:
 - (1) "Spiritual breathing" is a faith exercise coined by Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (now known as Cru).
 - (2) It is a simple, moment-by-moment analogy to physical breathing that helps Christians deal with sin, surrender control, and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - (3) Breathe out confession, Breathe in surrender and filling
- IV. Close
- A. Adapt Improvise Overcome...recognize where you are, find ministry, serve diligently
 - B. Practice the disciplines of the faith, use the tools available to you.