

Lent Day 22
Saturday March 5, 2016

Reading: Mark 7.31-37

Reflection

Hospitals are sterile places and they should be, or they can do more harm than good. No fingers in ears, no spitting, no touching tongues with saliva. Rather, if tongues must be touched a wood depressor is used and thrown away. If ears need to be examined a light with a plastic sleeve is inserted. Because of that in our thinking healing is necessarily distant and removed. The truth is that works into our understanding of God as well.

Jesus has already demonstrated he has power to heal. He doesn't need to touch, with a word the dead come to life. He doesn't even need to be present, when he says it's done, it is found to be done. So, then, why does he do this tactile healing? I think for two reasons. First, the nature of the wound; this man has been separated from his community because of his ailment and they ask him to lay his hand on him. Second, God is relational.

How often do we use God as a last resort? When all else fails and we can't figure it out then we throw up a prayer and hope for the best. In truth, we can use God as an object, a tool to fix what's wrong and then put him back in the box. God as hospital, versus God as Father. But, our lives don't need to be fixed they need to be healed and made whole. We need to be touched and cared for. Far more like a mother kissing a cut than a doctor examining a patient. That is what God wants too. He wants to be present with us always opening ears, making eyes to see, mouths to speak. He loves us so he shows it through his intimate care for us.

Prayer

Lord of healing and wholeness; make us to desire your touch and to crave your care. Keep us from treating you like a tool we can wield to fix ourselves. Let us rest in your remaking hands. Amen.