

Ps. Anthony Walker

The Emergency Room

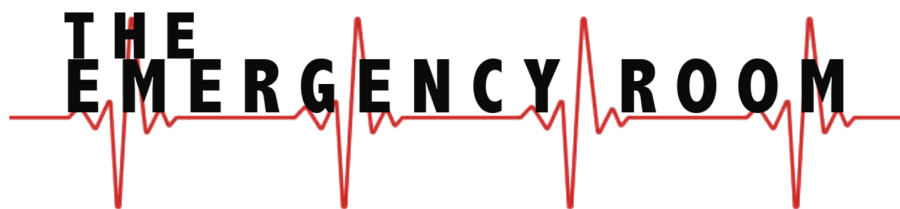

The Church as God's Emergency Room on Earth

Luke 5:31-32


31 Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. **32** I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."

Today I want to talk about a room in the kingdom of God, the church as the Emergency Room.

MAIN SLIDE



THE
EMERGENCY ROOM



SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT:

Earlier in the chapter Jesus is leaving town and He sees a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. He says to Levi, "Follow me and be my disciple,"

28 So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him. Now Levi was obviously excited about the opportunity because he threw a party/ a banquet in celebration of it, and a lot of his tax collector friends and other guest attended. The story then tells us that **30** the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, asking the question of **"Why do you eat and drink with such scum?"**

So Jesus is responding to the questioning and the concerns of his affiliation with sinners. He's clearly explaining to the Pharisees that "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but [only] those who are sick. **32** I did not come to call the [self-proclaimed] righteous [who see no need to repent], but sinners to repentance (THE SICK PEOPLE) [to change their old way of thinking, to turn from sin and to seek God and His righteousness]."

SERMON CONTEXT:

There is a metaphor of the church being a hospital. A place for people who are sick and for those who are in need of healing and to be made whole. The church is to be a place where those who are lost can be found and where the broken can be restored. It should be a place where those who are physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually wounded can come and experience the works of the great physician.

It's where Christians have their fellowship, yes, but it is where restoration takes place.

I believe the whole world is in a state of emergency, but the house of the Lord is the emergency room. Visiting an emergency room you will find a series of tragic injuries. Tragic injuries that have been self inflicted, and others occurring by accident. Some injuries are found to be so severe that the patient could be damaged for life or even die. Thus the emergency room is a response area/ team/ with emergency medicine to address and respond to life-or-death situations.

What would it be like if you showed up to the emergency room only to find an administrator, but no doctor, nurse, or surgeon? What God really wants to speak through me today is that the huge concern is not whether the church (The emergency room) doors are open, but more so **where are all the paramedics, phlebotomist, doctors, nurses, surgeons, and specialist?**

THE EMERGENCY ROOM:

In the emergency room (the church) we have patients show up who need a check up, those whom are dealing with acute pain (pain **that comes on suddenly caused by something specific**), or patients who have pain because of a certain circumstance, or have a real life emergency due to TRAUMATIC injury to their mind and soul, often produced or induced by self, someone else, or circumstance.

We must embrace the truth that the church is not an extend stay, or a resort to support our hammock experience, it is not a museum for the elite believers, but it's a place where brokenness becomes mended, where pain is relieved, where the pieces of your life are put back together and made whole, and where the sick become healed. We must be prepared as Paul writes in

2 Timothy 4:2

"Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient. Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction" (CEB).

POINT ~ #1: In the emergency room, everything must begin with truth....

In an emergency room information is gathered during the intake process: Where the collection of demographic, social and clinical data is gathered. The first data that must be collected is truth. Now if you are asked ON A SCALE OF 1-10 TO RATE YOUR PAIN and you lie and say it's a **one when it's really a nine**, you just hindered your deliverance.

1 John 1:8

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

As God's hands and feet (the church) when serving the sick, there has to be a mutual submission to truth. We have to be submitted under the authority of Christ, and the patient has to submit to the message of truth, which is not what we say, but what the Lord says.

John 17:17

17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

It starts with truth: Proper diagnosis requires the acknowledgment of truth. Some choose to water down the truth because in their mind they are being punished by the demon of shame and the pain to tell the truth

POINT ~ #2: YOU CANNOT UTILIZE A BAND-AID ON A TRAUMATIC WOUND

A traumatic cut wound is the deepest and most severe wound of all traumatic wounds.

Mark 5 Women w/ issue of blood:

Mark 5:25-28 25 A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. 26 She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.*****27 She had heard about Jesus*****. 28 For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed."

She was desperate for healing that she was willing to do anything she could. She had suffered by the hands of many physicians (those practicing medicine and bandaging the situation without deliverance, but what she needed was the great physician).

I WANT TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE SEEKING THE COVERING AND SUPPORT FROM THE CHURCH:

Emergency room personnel need hard skills that are developed over time through experience and repetition.

In the ER, **a doctor or team of doctors and nurses will care for you.**

ER team has to manage the patient's current condition while also seeking response from a separate health care team that may not even be at the same hospital. But MEDICINE IS NO GOOD IF YOUR NOT TAKING THE PRESCRIPTION AS IT WAS INTENDED.

POINT ~ #3: Follow the Prescription:

Not taking medicine as prescribed negates the plan of recovery and the support of medicating the diagnosis. This can lead to your disease or situation getting worse, leading to hospitalization or death.

Isaiah 48:17 NLT

This is what the Lord says—
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

"I am the Lord your God,
who teaches you what is good for you
and leads you along the paths you should follow.

Anytime Jesus gave the statement of deliverance or performed a miracle of healing, it was followed by a command.

John 5:1-9

Jesus Heals a Lame Man

5 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. **2** Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,^[a] with five covered porches. **3** Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.^[b] **5** One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?"

John 5:7-9

7 "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."

8 Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" **9** Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!

PAY ATTENTION TO THE PRESCRIPTION IN THE COMMAND: "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

You mean to tell me this man with this condition for over 38yrs, sitting in front of the pool where the opportunity of healing is right in front of him.

CLOSING:

Isaiah 43:21 AMP

"The people whom I formed for Myself
Will make known My praise.

The Church is God's emergency room here on earth.