

**A Journey with John | “Taking Jesus at His Word” | Pastor Doug Brown |
Communion Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Worship Greeter: David Livingston greeted and encouraged everyone in worship to King Jesus on Communion Sunday.

Worship Leader: Christy Eskes led everyone in honoring the Lord with Alleluia praises..

Worship song #1: “*We Bow Down*” sang “We have come to bow down in worship and praise. Alleluia, lover of my soul. With all of heaven we’re singing today, we praise You in the sanctuary because You are Holy. There’s nobody like You!”

Worship song #2: “*Better is One Day*” sang “Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.”

Worship song #3: “*Miracle Working God*” sang “You stood outside my grave with tears on Your Face, I heard You say my name. I knew You would come. I rose from the grave, my heart woke up, You are a miracle working God.”

Worship song #4: “*You’re the Only One Who Can*” sang “You turn mourning into dancing, shame into glory, You’re the only One who can. You give beauty for ashes, bones to armies, seas to highways, graves to gardens. Oh, there’s nothing better than You Lord.”

Pastor Christian followed worship encouraging everyone that there’s nothing better than You Lord, we choose You for Your Glory and exchange our chains of partnership with death for the *Freedom and Joy in Jesus*.

Announcements were led by Desiree and Sydney. They shared that on April 11, our Life Groups begin a new season. April 14 is Meet the Family after the second service. Church members are invited to the Thursday Food Bank for exclusive access to food resources 4:30-5:30 pm.

Pastor Craig encouraged all who are new to our church to the Meet the Family after the second service April 14 to learn about New Life Church. He encouraged tithes and offerings by partnering with God inside our finances. God awaits to bless our partnership abundantly. Pastor Craig prayed for today’s service and the financial partnerships He is calling everyone into.

There are many components in today’s sermon. It is highly recommended to watch Pastor Doug’s sermon video for his detailed presentation. There are several slides that focus on God’s Word to spend time reading and meditating upon. As well, there are sermon video segments that highlight the impact of prayer over the health needs of others.

1. Pastor Doug opened today's sermon entitled **Taking Jesus at His Word** within our sermon series **A Journey with John**.

Today our celebration began with *Communion*. Pastor Doug shared that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross is sufficient, taking away the burdens of sin. He shared *1 Peter 22-25* that teaches we have new life that will last forever from Christ the living Message from God to humanity. The wounds in Jesus on the Cross heal our wounds. As we engaged in *Communion*, the wafer represented our repentance of sin that wounds, the juice represents His Blood sacrifice on the Cross for our sins.

Pastor Doug next invited everyone to sign up for the *Inner Healing Prayer Ministry Team* for wounds that may be destructive or cause unhealthy patterns, harmful thoughts, feelings, or habits. Sessions are with 2-3 team members and appointments 1-2 hours in length. Make appointments at the website. See the *Slide* for detailed information.

2. Pastor Doug opened today's sermon within *John 4:44-54*. To give context to these verses Pastor Doug read from the *Proverbs 4:20-23 Slide*. These encourage believers to spend TIME with God's Word, keeping our focus on them as a lifestyle and keeping them within eyesight and within our heart.

Doing so provides life and nourishment, along with health to our entire soul, spirit, body, and mind. Coming into agreement with God achieves God's plan of health as part of His plan. This was fulfilled and demonstrated in the life of Jesus.

Opening in vv 44-45 *Slide* Pastor Doug points out that Jesus is preparing to leave Galilee. He remarks that a prophet is honored everywhere except in his own country. The Galileans however welcomed Him.

In v 46, Jesus arrives in Cana, the location of the wedding where He turned water into wine.

Share how you cultivate what is taught in Proverbs 4:20-23. Describe how you keep His Word within eyesight and burning within your heart. If you have testimony how this has impacted your life, please share.

3. Pastor Doug transitioned to the v 47 *Slide*. He gave context to this specific visit. Jesus entered the village of Cana. Some distance away is the village of Capernaum. In this location is a wealthy city official who was experiencing a serious health issue with his son who was near death. He knew Jesus was in Cana.

Pastor Doug shared that the official knew of the miracles Jesus had previously done. In a move of courage and at major investment, the official decided to travel and seek Jesus. The official found Jesus and *begged Him* to visit his son to heal him. He knew Jesus could heal and restore him. The official was *convinced and certain* that his son was going to be cared for by Jesus.

Pastor Doug shared that often we may be hesitant in expecting God to heal and restore. We often live and think this way because of experiential reluctance.

Pastor Doug shared a *Slide* that displayed two reasons people may *struggle* with healing.

Firstly, our experience from the past may be disappointing in what we expected God to do in a specific need and situation.

Secondly, we may think our level of faith may not be sufficient, or that our perceived self worth may not align with God's expectations.

Pastor Doug shared that our *faith begins* where the will of God is known. *Jesus models* for us how to develop and exercise *willingness* for healing vs our preconceived beliefs. The official in these verses demonstrates and models *willingness to exercise faith* in Jesus.

Share your experience with either of the reasons: disappointment from prior experiences or a low self esteem that thinks it isn't what God wants. Have these life experiences changed over time in your life?

4. Pastor Doug shared a *Slide* that included *Psalms 107:20 and Romans 10:17*. These verses teach that God sent His Word (Jesus) to restore and heal. Our *faith originates* from hearing God's Word as found in Jesus.

Pastor Doug shared that Jesus modeled the healing process in the lives of others. He shared that our recent *Fruitful Giftedness* class was modeled on praying over others within God's Word. He shared a *video* of two class graduates, both in need of physical healing. Both gave testimony for the specific healing each experienced. You can hear Liz and Kristin's testimonies in the sermon video. Both shared their *anticipation* and *willingness* to engage Jesus.

Pastor Doug shared from *John 4:48-54* that the official's son had experienced healing and physical health *at the exact time* he and Jesus spoke. The official's *willingness and faith combined* to deliver his son's healing from Jesus. *The official took Jesus at His Word...*

Pastor Doug concluded that God knows what's going on in your life and combining your faith, God will meet your needs. He loves you and wants to expand His Kingdom.

Share your story about combining willingness and faith to experience restoration both physical or emotional within God's plan as fruit of prayer.

5. As part of today's sermon Pastor Doug invited several people with specific health issues to be prayed over.

There were 8 groups of health issues:

- 1. Strombosis or blood clot issues**
- 2. Vision challenges**
- 3. Right hand, fourth finger pain**
- 4. Gallbladder issues**
- 5. Left ankle injuries**
- 6. Right elbow pain**
- 7. Sense of hopelessness or being overwhelmed**
- 8. Sinus infection left ear issues**

Pastor Doug invited those in any of the 8 groups to raise hands so that those around them could pray for them.

He encouraged everyone to keep seeking, asking, and knocking as Jesus does the healing.

God's Word heals, be willing and willing for restoration by **Taking Jesus at His Word!**