

Advent Catechesis: the Third Week
A Time to Heal

Scripture Readings

Sunday Lectionary: Jesus and John the Baptist: Matthew 11.2–19

Weekday Readings:

Monday: On Following Jesus: Matthew 8.14-22

Questions: What demands does Jesus make on his followers? What is the link between Jesus' authority and his healing?

Tuesday: The Healing of the Paralytic: Matthew 9.1-8

Questions: What does this passage teach about authority? How and in what way is Jesus victorious over the forces of evil?

Wednesday: The Raising of the Little Girl: Matthew 9.18-26

Questions: What is the context of Jesus' mission to cleanse us from pollution? How does it speak to you?

Thursday: The Servant: Matthew 12.15-21

What are the characteristics of the Servant in Isaiah? How does the story shed light on what Jesus came to do?

Friday: The Challenge of Forgiveness: Matthew 18.21-35

Questions: How can you become more forgiving? Why is the phrase 'forgive and forget' misleading?

Saturday: Jesus Mocked and Crucified: Matthew 27.27-38

Questions: How do you respond to the cross? How does it touch your life?

Think about healing - what is your understanding of it?

In the passages we'll consider today, we'll look at what is happening, who, what, and how Jesus is healing, and what our conclusions are regarding how we are to respond.

Matthew 9.1-8 The Healing of the Paralytic

What is being healed here? What is named?

How does Jesus' authority work differently than the power of the world? What is unique about it?

What are the ramifications for us?

and

Matthew 18.21-35 The Challenge of Forgiveness

Is there a limit to forgiveness?

Do we forgive with reconciliation as our goal?

Questions to Ponder:

What does healing look like?

Elements of healing: Mercy, suffering, naming, rescue, cleansing, humility, gentleness, expectation of weakness and sin vs self-reliance and toughness, hope, trust, gentleness, grace, reconciliation and restoration.

How can we show mercy?

Is the church known for showing mercy? How or how not?

How do we name our problems?

What context makes it easier or harder to do so?

What is required before we can trust?