

**Jan 31 | Sunday**

**Facing Issues That Divide - Read 1 John 3:16-20**

**Poverty and Health Care**



**1) Mon – Jesus: healing for all | Read Mark 2:1-12**

Jesus placed a high priority on healing (physical, emotional and spiritual). In this story of the paralyzed man, two things stand out. First, Jesus addressed the man's spiritual condition before healing his physical body. Have you ever found those two connected in your life? Second, it was his friends who brought him to the healer because he was unable. What does that tell us about our role in helping others find healing?

**2) Tue – Jesus overcame obstacles to healing | Read Mark 5:21-34**

Health care costs are not only high now, they were expensive then too. This woman had spent all her money without getting any better. Not only was she poor but she was shunned because people believed that sickness was a judgement from God. Shame was added to the burden of illness and poverty. What obstacles keep you from finding the healing you need? Do you believe, as she did, that Jesus' power is greater than these?

**3) Wed – Jesus' followers continued his healing work | Read Acts 3:1-10, 5:12-15**

In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the ability to offer healing to anyone who needed it. The result was that God was honored. This priority has led Jesus followers to continue to provide healing through establishing hospitals and offering health care in places where it is limited or nonexistent. How does physical healing show God's compassion to someone who does not know Him?

**4) Thu – God continues gifting people to heal | Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28**

Sometimes God chooses to heal in miraculous ways. Other times he chooses to heal through the skilled hands of a medical professional. Either way, healing is a gift from God. Consider how God could use you to heal someone else through prayer, encouraging words, offering forgiveness, or helping provide the finances to seek medical help. All of these are ways we can bless others.

**5) Fri – Christians faced death with confidence | Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Paul is writing what is possibly the final letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. Paul's words show that he knew his remaining time was short. Yet, he seems to welcome his impending death. He was confident that he had run his race well. Death can be a fearful thing but as believers we are called to live well, finishing the work we have been called to do so we can echo Paul's confidence. How will this thought impact your choices today?

**6) Sat – Healing for all eternity | Read Ezekiel 47:9-12, Revelation 22:1-2**

Sin results in death but forgiveness results in life. Healing on earth will always be temporary. Our ultimate healing, whether it be physical or emotional or mental, will only be permanent when we reach heaven. What a wonderful promise that there will be no more sickness, pain, or grief! Who can you share this hope with today?

**February 7 | Sun – Facing Issues That Divide: A Middle Way on Gun Control?**



**Hastings United Methodist Church**