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Healing

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Healing

Communion Meditation

November 6, 1994

Stu Warford

The essence of Christianity is relationships: our relationship with God, our relationship with each other, and our relationship with ourselves. To have a good relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves is to be healed. To have lost any of those relationships is to feel hurt, to be anxious, to be tired, to have doubts, to feel lonely, to feel distanced, to have lost emotions, to be stressed, to be broken.

There are those here today who are not healed. Jesus is here for you. Perhaps you are a child of parents that do not affirm you. Every time you turn around, you are hounded by the overbearing presence of a father or mother who finds every opportunity to criticize you and tell you that you are not smart, that you are not attractive, or that you are not acceptable. Or perhaps you are a child of parents that simply don't seem to care about you—parents who are involved in their own affairs, and who relate to you only to manipulate you into their schemes and plans.

There are those here who are in a marital relationship that is not healthy. Perhaps you are a husband or a wife who feels distant or estranged from your mate. You tire from having a mate whom you cannot seem to please. You are burdened having to raise the children all by yourself. Perhaps your marriage is crumbling away before your very eyes. Or perhaps you have already experienced separation or divorce. Perhaps you have experienced the loss of friends that comes from that. Perhaps you have felt a separation from a church that to you does not seem to know how to deal with your marital situation

during this time.

Perhaps you have grown weary from the corporate commitment that you are being asked to make. You tire from the 14 hour days you are called on to put in at the office. You feel trapped in a job that you do not like, but from which you cannot escape.

Perhaps you have suffered some great injustice. Perhaps you have been discriminated against because of the color of your skin, your looks, your gender, or a disability. Perhaps you have not been forgiven for something you did long ago, but for which you have repented.

Perhaps you tire of a religion that seems to consist of rules and regulations that govern what you can and cannot do. You attend church services regularly and even publicly pray or lead a church ministry, yet you feel that any sense of a spiritual reality is distant. Perhaps you think that God is not really interested in you.

No matter what the source of your pain, no matter what the cause of your hurt, recognize that God cares for you. Meditate and pray to feel him close to you. Close your eyes and sense his loving power. Feel him hold you close to his breast. Recognize that while others may judge and condemn you, the chief task of Jesus during his time on earth was not to judge, not to condemn, but to heal. Every time Jesus entered a city, people would bring their sick out to the main streets to be with him. When the sick could not come, they would send emissaries to ask Jesus to heal from afar. As he would leave a town, people would follow him, for just to touch the hem of his garment

would bring healing.

When Jesus sits at the table, he eats with those whom he has come to heal. When he calls us to this table, he calls us to participate in this healing. He comes to you, and he says, "There is no one else whom I would rather be with on this day than with you." He personally calls us to participate with him in this meal. And he heals us in the process.

And when a prostitute enters he says, "Come in and sup with me. It does not matter what you have done in the past, I want to eat with you." And when a tax collector comes, he says, "Come even when no one else will eat with you, I will eat with you." And when a woman who cannot find equality in a man's world enters, he says "Come I want to honor you and hold you up and affirm you, and I want to eat with you." And when they bring in the Black, and the Hispanic and the Jew, Jesus says, "Come, be with me, and let me see that which others do not see in you, and let me hold you up and eat with you." And when they bring in the divorced, Jesus says "Come while others have forsaken you and mistreated you, you will find acceptance here while you eat with me." And when they bring in the gang member, Jesus says, "Be with me, and I will affirm you while the world has turned its back on you. I am here, and I am now, and

I will listen to you. Let us eat together."

You, whoever you are, no matter how under-appreciated you feel, no matter the pain, you are worthy of God's attention. You are worthy of eating with Jesus, not because of anything you have done, but because of what God has done for you. He has come to heal you. Come, let us all, each and every one of us, sup with him, and participate in his healing power. Let us be reunited with him in this meal. Let us hold each other up and honor each other. Let there be healing among us, so that each of us, man and woman, black and white, rich and poor, freshman and senior, all of us can unite in this common meal. And let each of us turn away from the dark shadows that lives within us, and face the light this is His, the light that unburdens us, and that calls us to be all that he has created us to be.

1 Peter 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

Let us sup and celebrate together.

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