

**Friday, June 12, 2020**

**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'"**

*Matthew 9: 10-13*

So, picture this scenario: A person is trying to figure out what they want to do with their life, and they hear that there is good money to be made as a surgeon. But they happen to be one of those people who faints at the sight of blood. How do you think they will fare as a surgeon? By definition, a surgeon needs to be comfortable with blood and with looking at and touching the insides of the human body.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of Jesus' day, but they were not very well suited for their job. They would rather have been hospital administrators than surgeons. They couldn't stand the sight of blood! That is, they couldn't stand the sight of real sin in real people. They couldn't understand why Jesus spent personal time with sinful people. Jesus told them that that was the precise reason He came into the world. He came to be a "sin surgeon." He wasn't afraid of blood. He knew that in order to make a difference in people's lives, and especially in their eternities, that He would need to do some spiritual surgery.

Jesus is not afraid to see your sin, or the insides of your life. He has seen it all before. Nothing surprises Him anymore. The Bible says that "Jesus came into the world to save sinners." That's you, by the way. And it's me! Don't ever be afraid to let Jesus get close to you. In fact, your life depends on it! Your eternal life, that is. You and I have had a problem with sin, and it required "spiritual surgery."

Jesus died and rose to pay for the sins of the world, including yours and mine. He's not afraid of the sight of blood – NOT EVEN HIS OWN BLOOD, which He shed on the cross. When Jesus says He wants to be close to you, it's so He can prepare you for heaven. And He has done this by His death and resurrection. Now He just wants to make sure that you will put your trust in Him for your salvation.

If you have had surgery before, then you know what it means to put your life in someone else's hands. You have put your life in the hands of the surgeon. And the surgeon didn't even love you! How much more should we be willing to put our lives and our eternities in the hands of the One who loved us enough to die for us. Your sins do not surprise Jesus.

If you have been far from Jesus because you have been afraid of Him or ashamed of your sins, know that He has already seen them, and that He has died to forgive them.

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim