

Sunday STREAM SEPTEMBER 27TH



10:00AM

11:30AM

17:30PM

EVERY SUNDAY

Jesus As the Balm

Date: Sunday 27th September

Speaker: Steve Nicholson

Key Verses: Jeremiah 8:21

Talk Summary:

- The balm of Gilead - known for its healing properties. This was the best they had for easing pain and healing in their time.
- Jeremiah 8: 21 - Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?
- In the time of Jeremiah, God's people were in a difficult place. And they desperately needed healing. There are times when a whole people are wounded. This is the time we're in right now.
- We are tired, hurting, frustrated, and grieving all the losses this year has brought.
- Jesus IS the balm.
- Jesus could be the balm for you right now. The one that reduces pain and brings healing.
- 4 groups who Jesus is the balm for:
 - **The broken.** - facing our own brokenness is a large burden to bear. These people may feel stuck and hopeless but Jesus stands ready to heal. When you're broken, you can be confident that he won't throw you away or leave you. (Isaiah 42:3)
 - **The sick.** Jesus includes the excluded. Jesus touches us and heals us. (Luke 5:12-12)
 - **The oppressed.** Jesus sets the oppressed free. Jesus meets people in the midst of their oppression and lets them know their worth, that they're a child of God, and gives the

promise that one day he'll be back to tear down injustice. It's our job to help bring about justice in our time to bring about the Kingdom of God. (Luke 4:18-21)

- **The grieving.** We grieve so many things we're not able to do right now because of lockdown. Time with friends, church, sports, maybe losing loved ones...
 - We have an eternal hope that will ease our grief. A better life awaits us when Jesus comes back.
- If you're broken, sick, oppressed, or grieving, here's a practice you can do.
 - Tell Jesus all about it
 - Think about his love and grace and life in your life. Or think about a story in the gospels where Jesus acts as a balm for someone.
 - Be quiet for a few minutes and let his love fill your heart.

Worship

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?
- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- When in the past have you experienced Jesus as a balm?
- Which area of your life do you need to ask Jesus to be a balm for right now?
- Do you find it difficult to be expectant that Jesus will meet you and heal you in the present? Reflect on why that might be.
- How can you share the reality of Jesus as a healer or comforter with a friend that doesn't know Him yet?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?

Note to Small Group Leaders: Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.