

MUMC At-Home Worship:

April 26, 2020

Just before his arrest, Jesus tells his disciples, “Take heart! I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33)

As we continue in this Easter season, these words from the Gospel of John provide some instruction as they likely did for the disciples in the days following the first Easter. Even having seen the resurrected Christ, the disciples remained in a world of troubles that consistently challenged their faith. What does it look like to take heart and courageously live in a faith that believes Jesus has conquered the world?

Over the next few weeks, we’ll look to the three other instances in scripture that Jesus told someone to take heart and the different explanation he provides each. We begin with a paralyzed man and Jesus words, “Take heart, my child, your sins are forgiven.”

Thanks for joining us in worship!

-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Dear God, may our worship prepare us to take heart and courageously live our faith in a conquered world. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, United Methodist Hymnal #327 – [watch/listen here](#) (v.1-3)

Centering Scripture: “I’ve said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But take heart! I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33)

Scripture: Matthew 9:1-8

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. Jesus sees the faith of the crowd (v. 2) and offers the man forgiveness of his sins. Have you ever experienced being carried by the faith of others?
2. The man’s healing only comes after the legal expert’s reaction; if they weren’t there, do you imagine Jesus would have stopped with the forgiveness of sins? How might we respond compassionately and in faith when a person desires healing but doesn’t receive it?
3. Afterward, the crowds are afraid but also praise God. Does this seem contradictory to you? Have you ever experienced a similar combination in your life?

Hymn: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #361 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: *’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*, United Methodist Hymnal #3462 – [watch/listen here](#) (v.1-2,4)

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the forgiveness of sins. Help us take heart as we live in faith this week. In your holy name we pray, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Crown Him with Many Crowns
United Methodist Hymnal #327

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” words by Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874, and are in the public domain.

Matthew 9:1-8 (CEB)

Boarding a boat, Jesus crossed to the other side of the lake and went to his own city. People brought to him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man who was paralyzed, “Be encouraged, my child, your sins are forgiven.”

Some legal experts said among themselves, “This man is insulting God.”

But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Why do you fill your minds with evil things? Which is easier—to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But so you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“Get up, take your cot, and go home.” The man got up and went home. When the crowds saw what had happened, they were afraid and praised God, who had given such authority to human beings.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
United Methodist Hymnal #361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" words by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, and are in the public domain.

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
United Methodist Hymnal #462

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!
2. O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! (*Refrain*)
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. (*Refrain*)
4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
and I know that thou art with me,
wilt be with me to the end. (*Refrain*)

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" words by Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882, and is in the public domain.