

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Robert Madu

Sermon Title: "Where Restoration Starts – Alternate titles: When Healing you is Killing Me or How to Win with a bad hand"

Here are Pastor Madu's key points for those that are pressed for time:

- See Mark 2: 23 to 28 and Mark 3: 1 to 6.
- "It's a horrible way to live when all you do is look at microscopes (examining others) and never look at the mirror (self-reflection)."
- "Jesus had an uncanny ability to help the Pharisees see themselves – and they hated Jesus for it – this is what made them angry and mad."
- "The root problem with the Pharisees is they were jealous of Jesus – when you are effective at what God called you to do, people will be jealous – and this may cause you to shrink back on the calling of your life because of all of the resistance from others – I'm here to tell you that you need to walk in the totality of what God called you to do- Learn to live with the criticism – get tough skin and a soft heart – the only people that don't get criticized are the people that don't say anything or do anything. One writer says that jealousy is the trophy that mediocrity gives to excellence."
- "Some of us need to change our perspective on God – because you think God is in heaven waiting to hit you upside the head if you break a rule – Jesus broke rules to restore you."
- "See John 5 - Our God is the type of God that can restore the years that the enemy took from us – because our God brings restoration – Our God can even restore the years that we wasted - our God is the only God can redeem time."
- "The Greek translation of scripture tells us the man's hand was injured as the result of an unfortunate circumstance – And the Pharisees had good intentions by creating rules and regulations – however their hearts had become so withered, they became hardened – they lost all compassion – no wonder Jesus looked at the Pharisees first – he wanted to perform two miracles that day – to restore the man's withered hand and restore the hardened hearts of the Pharisees."
- "Religion is always that which takes something simple and makes it complicated – by adding rules and by adding regulations – Now look at what Grace does – Grace take something complex and makes it simple."
- "Where does restoration start? It starts in your heart – For some of you, it's been a difficult season to believe again – it's been a difficult season to dream again – instead of complaining about what's in your hand, know that God wants to restore your heart – God wants to give you a new heart so that you can believe again – so that you can hope again – so that you can trust again."

Scripture for this week:

- Mark 2: 23 to 28: Jesus Questioned About Fasting - 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" 19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. 21 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull

away from the old, making the tear worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.” Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath - 23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” 25 He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” 27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

- Mark 3: 1 to 6: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath - 3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.” 4 Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.
- Mark 12:30-31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
- **Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.**
- **Interested in joining Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in attending or leading a watch party: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- Here Comes Church:
 - Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
 - Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. When you are isolated, you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don’t have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
 - Old Church Basement – just released – quote: “From Going back to the place where we discovered worship for the first time – not a physical place - accessing our first love (within ourselves) – bringing you back to a pure place – absent of self-consciousness.” “Our prayer is that his album pierces through the darkness and creates light in people’s lives.”
 - eFam reunion tour meets next in Phoenix, Arizona – over 1000 hours of outreach during these events and 185 baptisms.
 - YTHX 2021 – virtual event – July 11 to 18.
 - Love Week: July 24 to 31 – sign ups start on June 1, 2021 – See: www.elevationoutreach.org.
 - Holly working on a new eGroup study called “Essentials”

- Opening Prayer by Pastor Madu on Sunday, June 6, 2021: “Father thank you for your word – speak to us today – Amen.
- Kev bonus: Opening prayer and comments by Pastor Furtick on 4/5/2021: **“Happy Easter everybody – We praise you Lord – King of kings – Lord of lords – We lift you high – We recognize that because you live, we live tomorrow – and I declare in the name of Jesus the same power that raised Christ from the dead is operative in this moment – so Lord let this power flow – let this mind set flow – let these miracles flow – we thank you God that we are in the middle of something that we will only understand on the other side – However we have a point of reference – because our faith rests in an empty tomb – and we do not have to have a lot of evidence to have a lot of faith – Lord we thank you that not only do we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as an accomplished fact – So is our forgiveness – So is our healing – So is our joy – So is our peace – all of these things we thank you for – we thank you in advance for all of the things that you do in our lives – in Jesus’ name we pray amen.”**
- See Mark 2: 23 to 28 and Mark 3: 1 to 6.
- Isn’t it amazing that two different people can be in the same environment - witnessing the same thing - but have two different experiences? The man’s hand was completely restored - and this should’ve been an opportunity for celebration - but the Pharisees saw this as an opportunity to begin to plot to kill Jesus – This man’s healing was the catalyst or impetus for the Pharisees to plan to kill Jesus.
- **Today I want to talk to you about our God that has the ability to completely restore.**
- **Today I want to talk to you about “Where Restoration Starts.”**
- **Our God is a God of restoration.**
- Elevation Family - I don’t have to remind you that we are fully immersed in a new year – there are lessons that I learned in 2020 that I am still walking out in 2021 – The first thing I learned while sheltering in place with my three young children (6, 4, and 3) during the Covid pandemic is that teachers are grossly underpaid. (*Kev note: Amen to that*). The second thing I learned in 2020 is that my greatest ability I have is my adaptability – God wants people to know how to pivot and know how to shift – we all need to learn how to move into what God is doing now. The third thing that I learned in 2020 is at the church of the living God is not optional - it is a necessity – the church is essential – we need light in the mist of darkness – we all need the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I can live with a bad barber and a bad dentist – and I might have a bad haircut or toothache but I’ll get by – we all need a church that is alive.
- **I’m glad there are people in church now – for months I was preaching into an empty room and speaking only to a camera lens – here is a thought: With all the screens and television lenses, I can see me and I can see you – but you can’t see you – You don’t have a clue what you look like right now – but I do. How can we talk about doing a new thing or changing something about ourselves when we can’t even see ourselves? And you cannot change what you cannot see – Any change in your life must be preceded by recognition – We actually have to see something before we can change it – Before restoration we need recognition of those things that are broken in our lives – that God wants to restore – we cannot change what we cannot see.**

- Here's a great question to ask that I learned from a prominent church leader: What is it like to be on the other side of me?
- **We all have blind spots that makes it difficult to understand fully how we are perceived. Ask people who you love this question – what is it like to be on the other side of me? If we don't ask this question, we never really get to see ourselves – how do you know that you're a great husband or a great wife? You've never been married to yourself – How do you know you're a great parent? You have never parented yourself – when we ask God to restore ourselves - the first thing we need to ask are used to see what we can't see.**
- **We should not spend our entire lives for us focus on the faults of people around us but not spending any time in self-reflection trying to understand what we can't see – God help me see me and fix the things that are wrong with me.**
- **Don't live a life like the Pharisee (where they say – I see what you need to fix) – they were very good at identifying the faults of others but could not see the Blindspot's in their own lives. The Pharisees were very good at microscope viewing – examining all of the faults of others – but they were horrible at mirrors – and could never see their own faults.**
- **It's a horrible way to live when all you do is look at microscopes (examining others) and never look at the mirror (self-reflection).**
- Jesus had an uncanny ability to help the Pharisees see themselves – and they hated Jesus for it – this is what made them angry and mad.
- **I also find it interesting that no one typecasts themselves as a Pharisee in the Bible – we never consider ourselves to be aligned with the Pharisees when we read the Bible – and it's a bit strange that people that regularly attend church never think of themselves as Pharisees. Need I remind you that you cannot see yourself? - When you asked the question what is it like to be on the other side of me? – another question is might I be a Pharisee in some other form?**
- **The root problem with the Pharisees is they were jealous of Jesus – when you are effective at what God called you to do, people will be jealous – and this may cause you to shrink back on the calling of your life because of all of the resistance from others – I'm here to tell you that we need to walk in the totality of what God called you to be – when you doing what God called you to do, people will hate you – learn to live with the criticism – get some tough skin and a soft heart – the only people that don't get criticized are the people that don't say anything or do anything. One writer says that jealousy is the trophy that mediocrity gives to excellence.**
- The Pharisees also did not like the claims of Jesus – Jesus was claiming that he was the Messiah and the son of the living God – the Pharisees concluded that nothing good comes out of Nazareth – they knew where Jesus came from.
- Pharisees also didn't like who Jesus hung out with – Jesus had a reputation I'm hanging out with people that had bad reputations – however none of these people with bad reputations placed Jesus on the cross. Think about this about this – Question: What got Jesus nailed to the cross? – answer: performing acts of healing on the sabbath – and he kept doing stuff on the Sabbath – the primary hot button issue with the Pharisees with that Jesus performed miraculous healing events on the Sabbath – this was the issue that God Jesus nailed to the cross.

- **Moses provided instruction for the Sabbath to be a day of ceasing or a day of rest – however Moses didn't specify what that was – and the Pharisees added requirements to the Sabbath – Religion will always add rules – making us think that religion is a bunch of marks that if we do this this and this God will except me – however Grace tells us that we are the recipient of something we did not deserve – that we are recipients of someone to pay the price for our lives – we live the life that we were not supposed to live and die a death that we deserved.**
- Recall that story of Pastor Madu trying to use the Elevator in Israel during the Sabbath.
- **The rules that the Pharisees created for the Sabbath were a bit peculiar – you couldn't take more than 3000 steps on the day of the Sabbath – you couldn't light a candle on the Sabbath and you couldn't write a letter on the sabbath – you could not take a bath on the Sabbath - and according to the Pharisees you could not heal or bless people on the Sabbath – and Jesus proclaimed that he was going to restore people's lives whether the Pharisees felt it was right or wrong. Something is broken and Jesus has to bring restoration – this is what he does – Jesus is attracted to the brokenness – we should not and need not walk in shame because God can restore our lives – Jesus specializes in taking broken things in triggering restoration.**
- Your marriage wasn't always perfect - and your children aren't always perfect – how many are thankful that God restores?
- Pharisees could not understand why Jesus kept on breaking the rules of the sabbath.
- Some of us need to change our perspective on God – because we think God is in heaven waiting to hit us upside the head if we break a rule – Know this: Jesus broke rules to restore you.
- In the scripture we see that Jesus broke the rules on purpose.
- See Luke 13 – the woman has a spirit of infirmity that is affecting her body – meaning there are somethings manifested in her body that started in her spirit – somethings we need deliverance from - in addition to physicians, psychiatrists, and counselors.
- Somethings need to be cast out.
- The Bible says in Luke 13 that for 18-year old woman was bent over and deformed – and this is a good analogy of humanity – we can't get ourself together all the time – we are typically too jacked up to fix ourselves – this is why we need a savior. This woman was healed on the Sabbath.
- See John 5 – Recall the man beside the pool in Bethesda – for 38 years he missed his moment to be healed by the pool in Bethesda – some of you might be thinking that you have missed your moment – and the enemy whispers this in your ear – and John 5, Jesus asks the man do you want to get well? 38 years is a long time to try to resolve something – Jesus spoke to the man with the emphasis on the expectation of the man becoming well.
- I preached John 5 when I was young – and back then I did not have a lot of empathy for the man by the pool in Bethesda – but now I realize 38 years a long time – and many of us even think that we missed our moment – that we missed our opportunity.
- *Kevin bonus: "Jesus performed MANY miracles during his time on Earth. But, on the Sabbath, he only performed 7.*
 1. *Jesus Heals Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law (Read: Mark 1:29-31)*
 2. *Jesus heals a man with a withered hand (Read: Mark 3:1-6)*

3. *Jesus heals a man born blind (Read: John 9:1-16) - This is the ONLY miracle in which the person Jesus healed, was born with the disease.*
 4. *Jesus heals a crippled woman (Read: Luke 13:10-17) - The woman had a disabled spirit for 18 years*
 5. *Jesus heals a man with Dropsy (Read: Luke 14:1-6) - Dropsy = a form of edema, where excess fluid comes to various parts of the body.*
 6. *Jesus drives out an evil spirit (Read: Mark 1:21-28)*
 7. *Jesus heals a lame man by the pool of Bethesda (Read: John 5:1-18)"*
- We have to be careful during periods of suffering – because the enemy will want us think that our suffering is the result of something we did – where we say the things like “the reason I am facing this is because I did that” – your suffering is not always the result of your personal sin – this is not true all of the time – and do not believe this all of the time – Yes some things are the result of our own doing.
 - Here is the key point – regardless of what we are going through – God will steer us to glory and (Kev note: “and achieve the most loving outcome”) – when it all is all said and done glory God is going to get the glory out of it.
 - *Kevin bonus read: “The Shack by William Young: “I (God) am not evil. You (humans) are the ones who embrace fear and pain and power and rights so readily in your relationships. But your choices are also not stronger than my purposes, and I will use every choice you make for the ultimate good and the most loving outcome. . . Broken humans center their lives around things that seem good to them, but that will neither fill them nor free them. Humans are addicted to power, or the illusion of security that power offers. When a disaster happens, those same people will turn against false powers they trusted. In their disappointment, they either become softened toward me or they become bolder in their independence. If you could only see how all this ends and what we will achieve without the violation of the human will – then you would understand. One day you will.”*
 - Let’s go back to Mark 2 – the Pharisees are now following Jesus – and they are stalking Jesus and the disciples – it’s interesting that the Pharisees don’t like Jesus but yet they are following him – just like adversaries that do not like us but yet still follow us – note important contrast here – note the difference between relationship versus religion – The Pharisees are quietly stocking Jesus while the disciples are having the time of their lives ministering and healing people – the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy – and some of us cried too many tears last year and we need to get our joy back – God wants to restore your joy.
 - And when the disciples picked some grains in the field on and Sabbath, the Pharisees pop-up to protest – this is the season to know what to respond to and to know what not to respond to – this is the season to know when to respond to an email and when not to respond to an email – and we need to stop stepping in to fight our own battles and let the Lord fight our battles – Don’t leave God out of the equation – Sometimes, the best thing to do is to sit back and let God fight your battles.
 - **When Jesus challenges the Pharisees, he is challenging their understanding of the Sabbath – Jesus is telling the Pharisees that they know the letter of the law but they do not know the spirit**

of the law – Jesus is telling the Pharisees that they know the words but I don't know the author – and because the Pharisees have focused on the words and not the author they have elevated their authority of the word over the people – were the Pharisees are focused on legal compliance and not compassion – and the Pharisees do not understand that human need transcends human tradition – Jesus came to seek that which was lost – not for people to keep a conduct code – The Pharisees were so busy keeping a code of conduct that they have no compassion for the people.

- Then Jesus goes in the synagogue to preach and then the Pharisees follow Jesus – because they know Jesus is looking for broken people – how many of you know that the church is not a museum of perfect people? What the church is for – it is a hospital for the sick and broken people – Not because we have it all figured out but - because we need the bread of life and we need Jesus.
- **Then Jesus approaches the man with the withered hand – Side note: it's amazing how we define people by their dysfunction where we label ourselves by what we did – And I came to tell you today that you are more than your mistake – and we need not define ourselves by our dysfunction – don't let other people define you by your mistakes and by what you did.**
- A withered hand is different – and we can probably assume that the man in the synagogue was not expecting a miracle – it's not a lamb leg and it's not a blind eye – the withered hand represents the thing that we learned to live with – the thing that we say “God - you can't restore this” – and I am on assignment to visit elevation church today to tell you that God wants to restore “that thing” – the marriage that you think is hopeless – the business that you don't think will recover after a global pandemic – God wants to restore the thing that you've learned to live with.
- *Mark 3: 1 to 6: “Jesus Heals on the Sabbath - 3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.” 4 Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.”*
- **Every miracle is a parable – the specific way we learn to heal is teaching us something – What does Jesus do? He tells the man to stand up and look at the Pharisees – The Pharisees came to trap Jesus and now Jesus flips the script and traps them – is it legal to save a life during the Sabbath? It is a simple question and demands a simple answer – religion is always that which takes something simple and makes it complicated – by adding rules and by adding regulations – Now look at what Grace does – Grace take something complex and makes it simple – Jesus asks the Pharisees a simple question because he is the personification of grace – where he simplifies ten commandments down to two – see: Mark 12:30-31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**
- **These two commandments will always take care of the other ten because Grace always takes what is complex and makes it simple. So, which one is it? Do good or do evil? Save a life or not save a life? Jesus asked the Pharisees a simple question - however they remain silent – really? The Pharisees were really loud when the disciples were picking grain - however they are very**

silent when it comes to the man with a bad hand – and Jesus marveled at their stubborn hearts – And I see what Jesus is doing here – the Pharisees have withered hearts and the man has a withered hand.

- We know that we are a Pharisee when we are loud about some issues and quiet about others – when people are hurting and broken – Lord God let us be a church that is loud about every issue that faces humanity – be loud about being at church for the people that are lost and broken - because everyone was created in the image of God.
- The Greek translation of scripture tells us the man's hand was injured as the result of an unfortunate circumstance – And the Pharisees had good intentions by creating rules and regulations – however their hearts had become so withered, they became hardened – they lost all compassion – no wonder Jesus looked at the Pharisees first – he wanted to perform two miracles that day – to restore the man's withered hand and restore the hardened hearts of the Pharisees.
- Anything that you reach for it with your hand started in your heart – your heart and your hand are connected – however since the Pharisees refused to understand what Jesus was telling them, he went ahead and healed the hand of the man in the synagogue – Jesus tells the man to stretch forth his hand – stretch forth your hand because it is different now – from commandment comes empowerment – if Jesus is telling you to take a step of faith - well then, take a step of faith – as the man extended his arm, restoration came to his hand – and if the Pharisees listened to Jesus they could've been restored as well.
- Closing prayer by Pastor Madu on 6/6/2021: Where does restoration start? It starts in your heart – For some of you, it's been a difficult season to believe again – it's been a difficult season to dream again – instead of complaining about what's in your hand know that God wants to restore your heart – God wants to give you a new heart so that you can believe again – so that you can hope again – so that you can trust again – We have all been through some difficult things in the last year – but can we stretch our heart in order to believe again – or will we walk away just like the Pharisees did and miss the miracle that was right in front of us? Father I'm asking you today to restore hearts – God give us new hearts – hearts that believe again and hearts that trust again – Jesus restore our hearts – Lord I know that if you restore our hearts, healing will come to our hands – Lord if you restore what is on the inside, it will restore everything on the outside – This is what you do Jesus – You heal us from the inside out – bring life back in our hearts – to trust and believe again – heal us from the inside out. The enemy has lied to us and making us think that the issue is our identity – Lord you're finished work on the cross makes everything new – and we can always come home – In Jesus name, Amen.