

“He took our frailties and carried our sickness.” We came down the mountain with Jesus, still in **shock** at his teachings. Blessed are the **poor** and **hated**? Our righteousness needed to **surpass** that of the Biblical scholars? Anger toward our brother or sister was an act of **murder**? Desire for something not ours was an act of **theft** or **adultery**? We were to turn the other cheek and **not resist** the evil person? We were to love our **enemies**? We were to live for only the Creator’s approval and not the **opinions** of others? We were to stop storing up earthly, material **possessions**? We were to **stop worrying** about our lives, bodies, and tomorrow? We must treat **everyone** in the way we want to be treated? We must listen and **practice** the will of our heavenly Father to enter the Kingdom? It was **crazy** and we didn’t have any time to absorb it all before everything started happening.

At the bottom of the mountain, we were met by an outcast leper who had a skin disease—we were forbidden to touch him or even be around him. But Jesus went right over to him and then reached out and **touched** him—taking on the leper’s uncleanness and yet healing the leper. Then we ran into a Roman military officer begging for help. One of his soldiers was paralyzed from a wound in battle and was dying. The officer knew he wasn’t worthy of Jesus because of his violent life of living by the sword. So he asked Jesus to just speak the word and heal his servant. Jesus was shocked by this man’s faith. But we were **shocked** that Jesus was even giving this hated man the time of day—and then Jesus helped this **enemy** of our people and healed his servant. Then we went back to Peter’s house. His mother-in-law was debilitated by a great fever. They had isolated and quarantined her to protect everyone else. But Jesus went in to see her. He **touched** her and the fever was driven away. She regained her strength and began to serve us. Word spread and many people began bringing those who were sick, diseased, and broken to Jesus. He welcomed them **all** and healed all those who came to him in faith. **“He took our frailties and carried our sickness.”**

The crowds began to gather again and Jesus saw the danger of their influence. He had previously saved us by pulling us **out** of the crowds to follow him. So we got out of there and got into a boat to sail across the Sea of Galilee. As we were leaving, a couple people came up to Jesus, offering to follow him wherever he went. But Jesus warned them that anyone who wanted to follow him must leave all their comfort zones and family systems behind. Then as we sailed across the sea, a great storm arose. Jesus had been exhausted from healing the people and carrying their brokenness, so he had fallen asleep in the back of the boat. The waves started to splash into the boat and we began to sink. Yet Jesus calmly slept on. We shook him awake, yelling, **“Lord save us! We are about to die!”** Jesus looked at us and said, **“Why are you afraid? Why do you have so little faith?”** Then Jesus told the wind and the waves to stop—and suddenly they did, it was calm and quiet. When we got out on the foreign side of the Sea of Galilee, two violent men confronted us. They urged Jesus to leave them alone and not destroy them. Jesus then threw out the evil spirits that were possessing them into a herd of pigs that charged down into the sea and drowned. The people from the city came out and were horrified—they demanded that we leave their region.

So we got back into the boat and headed back to Capernaum. There a group of friends was carrying a paralyzed man to see Jesus. Jesus saw their faith as they **carried** this man’s frailty and sickness. Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, **“Take heart, your sins are forgiven.”** The authorities who heard this were furious. Then Jesus said, **“What is easier to say—your sins are forgiven or get up and walk?”** Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, **“Get up and walk.”** And miraculously, the man’s legs were healed and he got up and walked out. Leaving there, we came across a tax booth. Jesus looked at the hated tax collector in the booth and said, **“Follow me.”** Matthew the tax collector then left everything behind and joined us in following Jesus. The authorities were again furious. Jesus said to them, **“The healthy don’t need a doctor, the sick need a doctor...I did not come to call the righteous, but the selfish.”**

Jesus didn’t shun frailty, weakness, sickness, and brokenness like everyone else did in our world. The temple and its authorities hid frailty, sickness, and brokenness, pretending it didn’t exist. Instead Jesus called the frailty, brokenness, and sickness to himself—he received it and took it upon himself and carried it away in love. **“He took our frailties and carried our sickness.”** The rich, powerful, and successful didn’t think they were sick, they didn’t think they needed a doctor. So they had no interest in following Jesus. But those who saw their frailty, saw their weakness, saw their brokenness, and saw their sickness, they were ready to follow. Ready to leave their comfort zones and family systems behind—leave **everything** behind, leave their dysfunction behind, to follow Jesus into true healing.

We came to see that we were deeply frail, weak, broken, and sick **ourselves** and yet Jesus kept bearing with us, putting up with us, carrying our sickness, carrying our fearfulness and anxiety—as long as we would let go of it. We were blind, we were deaf, we were spiritually dead, but Jesus didn’t give up on us. He was a **doctor** who had come to save us from our sickness and bring us true healing. So he **called** us to himself, called us out of the crowds, out of our old lives and dysfunction and into a life of living and obedient faith, and there with him we would find healing. He had said to those he healed, **“Let it be for you according to your faith.”** We saw it time and time again—those who turned their focus to the Lord Jesus in faith and let go of their brokenness, were healed. But those who looked away from the Lord and continued to gaze selfishly at themselves, holding on to their dysfunction, were lost in their sickness.

“He took our frailties and carried our sickness.” Are you going to bring your frailty, brokenness, and sickness to Jesus or pretend that you are healthy and don’t need his help? Are you going to let Jesus carry your sickness and bring you into healing? This requires you to completely let go of your life and dysfunction and be honest about the darkness and addictions within you. Jesus wants to take your frailty and carry your sickness. But as long as you are clinging to your brokenness and sickness or trying to hide it, he cannot pick it up. He is calling you because you are sick and you need his healing care. But the only way to find healing is to let go and follow him in faith. **“Let it be for you according to your faith.”**

Jesus sees the truth of who you are—he sees every hidden part, every fear, every anxiety, every thought, every word, every action. Jesus knows how frail and sick you really are—he sees that you are deaf, blind, struggling, and dying—he sees your secret addictions—and that is why he has called to you, **“Follow me.”** He is the good doctor who has called you to himself with all of your frailties, weaknesses, brokenness, and sickness and he is going to heal you and change you, **if** you follow him in faith—if you listen to his word and practice it. **“He took our frailties and carried our sickness.”** Jesus wants to pick up and carry away all your baggage and dysfunction. Come to him again this day and lay down your frailty and sickness before him. He will take it away and he will heal you. **Amen.**