

PASTOR'S NOTES

Healed to Serve

Mark 1:29–39

The hands of the King are the hands of a healer.

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:19 ESV)

Sickness is not a—strictly speaking—natural part of life, but an unnatural intrusion into creation, a creeping of the curse of death into everyday life due to human rebellion against God. While it’s a fixture of life as we know it, sickness remains an unwelcome guest that was not here in the days of Genesis 1 and will not be here in the days of Revelation 21.

It is fitting that the public ministry kicks off with a round of healing. Jesus’s healing ministry reveals his compassion toward the very ones who have subjected creation to futility and brokenness. It also reveals his identity as Isaiah’s suffering servant who brings about healing—a dismantling of sin and its effects—through his suffering.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45 ESV)

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:24–25 ESV)

His healing miracles are signposts that beckon people, then and now, to live under the restorative rule of Christ. Those who hear Jesus’s gospel of the kingdom and repent and believe in Christ experience his healing at work in their lives—first, spiritually, and then, physically in the resurrection.

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:15 ESV)

Jesus knew why he had come.

Jesus prayed often as a part of his ministry; Jesus had a habit of pulling away to draw near to his Father. However, Mark only includes three instances where Jesus pulled away to pray:

1. Gethsemane (Mark 14:32)
2. After the death of John the Baptist and the Feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:45)
3. And here

“All three were times of crisis when Jesus was tempted to take an easy way rather than that of suffering and death.” — James Brooks

Yet, Jesus remained on task. He did not let the familiar distract him from his purpose. He came to preach the gospel of the kingdom throughout Israel, he came to demonstrate his authority over the dominion of darkness, and he came to triumph over his enemies and save his people through his death on the cross. Jesus knew why he had come—and he acted accordingly.

Apply

We are healed to serve, so serve with all humility.

“Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence.” — Jerome

We cannot help but see a pattern with Peter’s mother-in-law that applies to us as well. The flow is clear: (1) She was sick, (2) Jesus healed her, and (3) she served Christ and others.

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3–4 ESV)

Notice that Peter’s mother-in-law did not occupy a formal office in her service. She simply served—most likely preparing a meal to be enjoyed on the Sabbath and allowed her home to be the hub of Jesus’s ministry that evening.

Let your home be a place where others experience the healing of Christ.

⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: (1 Peter 4:9–10 ESV)

Your home has the potential to be a hub of Christ’s healing ministry—if you steward it well.

Don’t lose sight of your purpose in your callings.

Whereas Christ stayed on task, refusing to let the clamoring of the world and the path of least resistance sidetrack him from his purpose in his unique calling, we oftentimes fail to do so. For, many times, in our callings in the household, in the workplace, and as citizens of Christ’s kingdom we drift from our purpose.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11–14 ESV)

Focus your life through the habit of prayer.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2 ESV)



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, September 6, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS

SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 14 | 6:30 PM

Breakout groups are intentional topical studies that meet for a short season on Wednesday Nights. These groups help equip disciples in various areas so that they might better glorify God in every area of their lives.

Life Verses: Lights to Our Paths

Dining Hall | Hunter Hindsman, Taylor Wiggins, Al Garrett & Ed Kensil

Parenting with Confidence

Room 312 | Todd & Jeanie Tumlin; Brandon & Lori Snyder

What does the Bible say about ____? Six Conversations for and with Young Adults

Room 310 | Chad Kitchens

Finances God’s Way – Beyond the Basics

Room W103 | Phil Hamilton

Ministry Connections

Room W101 | Mike Niemi & Joe Gilchrist

How to Disciple Someone

Room W102 | Daniel Doak & Jamie McGlaughn

Visit mbchurch.com for complete descriptions



Tuesday Bible Study

Begins Tuesday, SEPT 8
9:30 AM - Dining Hall

Taught by Gerry Grant

For Men & Women

The Well
at Brunson Farms

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
from **2:00** until **6:30** in the evening
BRUNSON FARMS
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table,
and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip
ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical
tools to grow in and live out their faith.

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

COST: \$25



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Kids' Theater

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Labor Day - Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Abundant Life Choir singing at Silver Lakes Senior Living
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Chicken Pot Pie, Green Beans with Baby Potatoes,
Broccoli Salad, Rolls & Dessert or Salad with a Protein
Kids: Burgers & Chips)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry,
KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship,
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

September 6 - Ezra 5	September 10 - Ezra 8
September 7 - Ezra 6:1-15	September 11 - Ezra 9
September 8 - Ezra 6:16-22	September 12 - Ezra 10
September 9 - Ezra 7	

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!

life group
Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.



THE WELL
Women on Mission

Sunday, Sept 13 | 5:30 PM | Home of Kaye Turner
{522 Stratford Court | Rainbow City, AL}

Our Mission focus will be on State Missions.
Please bring your Christmas backpacks
or return to Room W103.

NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering
membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs,
structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

- Family of Luther Riley in his passing
- Joyce Jones, Ed Gartman & Family in the loss of their brother
- Clyde Simms - Gadsden Regional
- Patrick Romano - recovering from surgery