

**Mission Possible: Heal**  
**February 26, 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: “Go and announce that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!” (Matthew 10:5a, 7-8 NLT)

These are lofty assignments to be certain. We might feel ill-equipped if not for the promises made to us in John 12: 12-14 (NLT). “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” How can we boldly proclaim this truth in our lives? We start by believing there is power in the name of Jesus!

**Digging Deeper**

As we continue Jesus’ healing ministry and fulfill our mission...

We will find ourselves in the company of SICK persons.

- Ultimately, our complete healing awaits us in heaven. Revelation 21:4 NIV describes the true healing we should all be longing for: “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” However, until that day comes, we will undoubtedly encounter people struggling with mental, physical, and emotional illnesses at every turn. They might even be staring back at us in the mirror. What do you view your role to be in terms of healing others (spiritually or physically)? What are some things you can do to begin to live into that role?

We will discover it may be CHAOTIC and MESSY.

- Have you ever been the recipient of a 3:00 am phone call? Calls like this are almost never placed without some type of tragedy unfolding in the background. As we respond, we are punching our time card to begin the job of serving as His hands and feet. Even though we anticipate the heartache and chaos that may be waiting for us, we go because we are called to do so. Discuss a time when you were able to minister to someone who was in the midst of a turbulent situation. In what ways did that experience bring one (or both) of you closer to the Lord?

We will have to use COMPASSION and PRAYER.

- Break our hearts for what breaks Yours, Lord. Yes, please break them. But do not allow us to remain in a state of suspended agony over the pains of others. If we are truly following Jesus’ example of compassionately teaching, preaching, and healing, we must transform our feelings into action. What are some practical ways we can provide hope and help for those among us who are hurting? What role does prayer play in the healing process?

## **Conclusion**

Over the past several weeks we have observed that Jesus gave His followers a rather daunting task: to do the same things He had done and even greater things. According to Matthew's gospel, here's what Jesus did during His earthly ministry: "Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News about the kingdom, and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses." (Matthew 9:35 NCV)

Remarkably, the first Christians picked up right where Jesus left off and so, in the Book of Acts, we find them doing the exact same things: teaching God's Word, preaching the gospel, and healing the sick. While we do not possess the power to heal on our own, our mission to do so is made possible when we believe in Jesus and ask in His name.