

“Who you gonna Call” 9/27/2009 Kenmore UMC
James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

We are people who call on God in our suffering and in our joys and who celebrate when God’s will is done even as we lead all in following and receiving Jesus’ love.

Some of you may remember the old movie “Ghostbusters,” from 1984. It had a catchy song in it that after a dire “when...” statement had the phrase, “who you gonna call? Ghostbusters!” I have to admit it is a pretty ridiculous movie that I have never watched all the way through, (in fact it was on the other night and because I was going to refer to its theme song, I tried again to watch it but it is so silly I again jumped back and forth to it. 1st scene they are called and then run in panic.)

But that song sticks in your mind and it got me to thinking that almost two thousand years ago James was asking the same question but with a very different answer, an answer we as followers of Jesus and as sharers of Christ good news claim and proclaim all the time.

Maes asks: Are any suffering? Who you gonna call, Are any cheerful, Who you gonna call, Are any sick, who you gonna call? Lord Jesus. The ultimate nightmare buster, joy giver, wholeness restorer. I have to admit, Lord Jesus is not as catchy a response to “who you gonna Call?” as ghostbuster, but I think we all know it is the lifegiving, life enhancing, life restoring answer.

So, when you are suffering and don’t know where to go, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

And when you have been blessed and feeling joyous, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

And when you are sick in body, mind or spirit, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

When see the suffering in your neighborhood, among your family or friends, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

When so many are sick and hurting in mind, body and soul; who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

When the good triumphs, when strangers are helping strangers, when a child is fed, when a lonely person has a friend, when the suffering are comforted, when the older folks share their wisdom, when blessings abound and your hearts rejoice, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

I sometimes worry that seems people who win the lottery or win at a casino, tell there good news more often than followers of Jesus do. If that is so who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

We live in a time when people and leaders would rather denigrate the possibility of change for the better than accept any change that doesn’t help there interests. Can any of you really stand to listen to the so call “health care reform debate,” every ghost of a fear, mostly imagined, is endlessly reported and shouted and way too few times are the ways where reform have begun to happen and people who had no health care are receiving it, and people who have been frustrated by the health care they have received are not as frustrated and all the ways people have prevented illness by being proactive are never really being heard of in the debate.

Friends, when the debate is rancorous, hurtful and not helpful to meet the needs of God’s people; who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

And we might not even like the answer he gives. Especially those whose real opposition is about their self-interest be they politics or profit. And in point of fact all the public who would rather hear what we want rather than what we need to hear. *“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, (who could be healed, made whole, held and comforted by me) it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.*

And if something like health care reform to give better, more affordable, more available health care is proposed by someone else who has a good workable and maybe even working solution, maybe we should hear Jesus words to his disciples when we call for Lord Jesus.

Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose their reward."

Whether it is health care, an anti-poverty program, a neighborhood revitalization program, a small business development program, a community improvement program, a self-help program, whatever it may be if it in deed helps the least of these, the little ones we should be the ones affirming it and supporting it.

All too often our reaction and people in general's reaction is criticism based rather than a solution. Again we have to ask; who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**

Lord Jesus who says whatever part causes you to sin, your hand, your foot, your eye, your mouth, you ought to cut it off or pluck it out rather than harm those in need. There are many problems in our world, in our own lives and what we, what the world needs from the followers of Jesus is less criticism and more solutions, more affirmations of what is working and what can be transformed to work and whatever is helping the little ones among us.

It is not just a responsibility, but a privilege that we have to be able to remove the stumbling blocks, to affirm whoever it is that is casting out demons in Jesus name. It is a privilege to be able to share the flavor of God's love in all we do in Christ's name.

(Mike Williams story Bread loves salt)

When we live as Jesus disciples we have salt in ourselves and are about being at peace with one another. So when suffering or joys abound, when sickness or healing presents itself, when righting wrong and promoting what is right is before us, who you gonna call, **Lord Jesus!**