



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on Sunday February 21st 2021 at 10:45.

The current lockdown restrictions have resulted in the decision to not meet in person at Bethesda Chapel at present. We plan to use our YouTube channel to broadcast the services, but will still continue to provide this written service sheet. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we all seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Alec welcomes us.

Good morning everybody. Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church to the online presentation for the 21st of February 2021. It's really good to have you with us; hope you really enjoy sharing with us in singing praises to God, in praying and hearing from his word what God has to say. Let's begin now.

We join together in singing (or reading) one of the well known hymns written almost a hundred years, **Great is thy faithfulness**. There are 2 YouTube links if you wish and are able to access the internet, one to the version we sang last month and another one Alec has chosen for today, sung by a Memmonite Youth Choir - in 4 part harmony. If you do not wish to watch or listen, you can imagine it being sung whichever way you like.

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
 there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
 as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
 "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
 great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
 "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"....

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
 "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"...

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This version Sung by Blue Rock Mennonite Youth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IiQztc41z5Q>

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Janet reads our Bible passage for today: Luke 4 31-44, entitled

Jesus drives out an impure spirit

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 'Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!'

'Be quiet!' Jesus said sternly. 'Come out of him!' Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

All the people were amazed and said to each other, 'What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!' And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Jesus heals many

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of illness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.' And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

We can lift our voices in song again with another familiar hymn: **And can it be**

The version Alec has chosen for us was recorded in India in 2008, and all the ladies are wearing beautiful saris.

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain,
for me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

"Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!

"Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

"Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above
so free, so infinite His grace,
emptied Himself of all but love
and bled for Adam's helpless race.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free
for O my God, it found out me!

'Tis mercy all, immense and free
for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night,
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread,
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Public domain, written by Charles Wesley.

Recorded live at St Andrews Kirk, Chennai, India in 2008

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mISbGETVr84>

CCL no 5664

Alec shares his message, entitled "A Day in My Life"

"Last year at BBC beginning on April 26 we followed through a five-week series on miracles of Jesus, looking at nature miracles, miracles of healing, deliverance from demons, resurrection miracles and the resurrection of Jesus himself. All these messages continue to be available on our Blackburn Baptist Church YouTube channel.

Our message this morning is thematically related in many ways to those previous messages. Our title this morning is:

A DAY IN MY LIFE

Miraculously Jesus left Nazareth and went to the Galilean town of Capernaum. They hadn't exactly given him a good send-off. They hadn't liked what he had been saying.

You might think maybe he was really tired and had decided that on Saturday, the Jewish day of rest, that he would have a bit of a lie-in, get up late and maybe then do a little shopping before watching the meeting in the synagogue online. After all, as it says in Ecclesiastes, „There is a time for every purpose under heaven.“

Well there are all kinds of ways of misusing Scripture aren't there and we are very skilled at finding bible references that suit our way of thinking, choosing them or modifying them to fit our behavioural preferences, interpreting and adapting them to fit our interests and balancing it into and with our lifestyle instead of allowing Scripture to form our character and our lives.

Read Luke 4:31

There are no official league tables for the quality of the teaching of NWBA churches. There are no prizegivings where you can receive awards for „Sermon of the year“, „Sermon illustration of the week“, the most YouTube clicks or anything similar. We preach the Word of God as He gives it to us. Woe to us if we don't. And woe to all of us if we don't hear or want to hear what God is saying to us.

What a privilege we have to live in lands where we are free to have and to read Bibles in our mother tongues, where we are free to listen to and to preach from God's Word, where we are free to meet together to study and to talk about God's Word.

Jesus arrives in Capernaum and on the Sabbath he goes to the synagogue and teaches the people. He is not there to create a media spectacle, to entertain the faithful or to be photographed for the Lancashire Telegraph. He teaches the people. That is his responsibility. That is his work. That is that to which he is committed. Because the people of God need to know what their God thinks and says, what is and what is not important to Him and how they should and should not live.

Read Luke 4:32

His message had authority. It was real, it was genuine. There was no conflict between his words and his actions; what he said he did. When the Son of God speaks things happen.

He spoke with full authority the truth of the powerful Word of God in contrast to the lifeless, dead formulations of the scribes who wrote down and revised the oral traditions.

We can listen to masses of sermons, read hundreds of books, work ourselves through terabyte after terabyte of digital data files, watch visual presentations of biblical addresses

and messages without end. But the burning question in my heart is are we open to see Jesus? Are we open to the authority of Jesus in our lives? His Word is powerful, his Word is life-changing, his Word is dynamic. The Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

So we may ask ourselves the question: Does the way we live and speak and worship fit what Jesus says; do our lives and our worship accurately reflect the Word of God?

You may remember we looked two weeks ago at Luke 4:13 where it reads, „When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.“

And here he comes again. That didn't take long did it. In verses 33-37 we see the devil at work confronting Jesus in a man possessed by demons. The devil has no power over Jesus and if we live in Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit the devil has absolutely no power over us either.

We should avoid making either or both of the following mistakes in our thinking. We should neither underestimate nor overestimate the power of Satan. And we should never forget that the devil is powerful, but our God is all-powerful.

Read Luke 4:36-37

The people were amazed at his teaching. Why?

*because his powerpoint presentation was very impressive?

*because the camera angles were well thought out?

*because he did not require them to take his message too seriously and didn't threaten their existing lifestyle?

*because the background music and the overall setting of the gathering was good?

No. Not because of any one of these factors. It was because when Jesus spoke there was a direct maybe even perfect correlation between his proclamation of the truth and the power of God displayed and demonstrated in dramatic ways.

Jesus identity, his authority and his power over all in heaven and earth was made clear to everybody. Do we know who Jesus is? Do we recognise his authority? Do we bow down before his power?

1 John 3:8b reads: „The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.“

And that quite simply is what he did as he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Look with me again at verse 33:

„In the synagogue was a man who had the spirit of an evil demon in him;“ (GNT)

Do you not ask yourself the question, what is this man with this condition doing in the synagogue? Was he fulfilling his religious obligations? Was he looking for help? Maybe his condition was not so noticeable in his home situation, in his daily life. Perhaps he suffered there from occasional seizures. But when confronted in the synagogue with the presence and teaching of Jesus Christ the reality of his burden became clear. Our writer Luke is a medic, he knows what he is saying.

Those in whom the Spirit of God dwells make themselves available to serve the living God. But those who give room in their lives to demons become unwilling slaves of the powers of darkness.

Jesus shows mercy to the man in ordering the demon to leave him, which he did.

That was the first episode in a day in the life of our Lord. The second episode begins in Simon's home. Simon shares his house with his wife and his mother-in-law, an interesting constellation. The story here is also told by Matthew and Mark. It is very straightforward but with a deep and wide-ranging meaning.

Read again verse 38b. „Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.“

This sounds so simple. We love the Lord, we have given Him back the control of our lives. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price. He is present with us and when we have a health problem we simply ask Jesus for help.

But are we not often so independent, so self-sufficient that we say to ourselves I don't need any help.

Or we say, asking Jesus to heal me is fine, maybe for somebody else that would be really OK but I myself prefer to go to the doctor; Jesus will be with me in the doctor's surgery, in the hospital.

The wife in a missionary family working in Mongolia was rather ill. There was no doctor in the vicinity who would be able to help. They prayed and she was healed.

One year later the same family was in Europe and the mother was once more ill in the same way. They prayed but her condition didn't improve. Not one bit. Until someone suggested she contact a doctor whose diagnosis and treatment led to her being healed.

Our Lord works in many ways. It is not for us to determine what He should do. We should pray in His Name, that He will act for the sake of His Name and to His glory. Like we did again and again this week.

He always hears and answers our prayers according to His will. After all He is the Almighty God. He is all-powerful, He is good and He is gracious.

Let's return to the text.

Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her.

There used to be a kind of quiz question where one was shown a short film of a sporting event, which would then be stopped and the quiz contestants would be asked what happened next?

That`s what I ask you now. Jesus has been asked for help. He has healed Simon`s mother-in-law. What happens next?

Does she go to the house group or the ladies`meeting and say what she has experienced? Does she shout over the garden fence to her neighbours about what Jesus has done? Does her family make a short video clip of her before and after high fever and post it on Facebook and YouTube? Does she share this at the Wednesday midweek zoom meeting in all the chat rooms?

No. The Bible says: „She got up at once and began to wait on them.“

Isn`t that amazing!

Nobody says, wait a minute, take it easy. Might be some side effects. Better check this out in a relaxed way. Lie down again for a while.

Nothing like that! She got up at once and began to wait on them.

Nobody asks her to serve them a tasty bowl of hot carrot and coriander soup or a plate of tea and cakes.

She does what she is called to and normally would do. Straightaway.

It is a kind of re-creation of who she was and what she was before. The same but different. Because Jesus had healed her.

Living, growing and serving together with her family. With those who love Jesus.

That is what we remember Simon`s mother-in-law for. Not because she wrote a book about her experiences with the Lord but because she lived out the new life, the re-created life he had given her through meeting with Him and being helped and healed by Him through the encouragement of her family, a family that loved God in Jesus Christ.

The sun is setting as our third episode in one day in Jesus` life begins. There are many of us who love photographing and filming the sunset, finding the right place at the right time with the right lens on the right camera, usually in a hurry, maybe spontaneously or perhaps a little chaotically. But on this occasion the urgency has another reason, the haste a different background motivation.

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

Wasn't Jesus busy enough already? Did he really need extra responsibility after a hard day's work? I honestly cannot imagine that he gave these ideas and thoughts even one minute of his time. He simply carried out what his Father gave Him to do.

Now while the sun was setting is how the NASV translates verse 40, focusing on the impatience, maybe even restlessness of the people as they waited for the moment when the Sabbath would end and they would be allowed to carry the sick without breaking the religious laws. As you probably know, Jewish law says that Jews must not carry any item, no matter how small or for whatever purpose outside their home on the Sabbath, even if they are allowed to carry them within their home. I am sure you will be familiar with this from John 5:10 in the context of the healing at the pool of Bethesda.

We notice that Jesus may well speak to great crowds of thousands, but he is concerned with individual people. He doesn't take part in a mass healing programme. He lays his hand on each individual person and heals them. Jesus is concerned for everybody and for each person's individual needs. Jesus does not just want to heal people, he wants them to return to God.

The signs and wonders were always placed by Jesus in the background. What really counted was the message of the gospel, his preaching and teaching.

The fourth and final episode in Jesus 24 hour day is recorded at the end of Luke 4. He needed time alone with His Father. Look at verse 42.

Capernaum wanted to keep Jesus for themselves. They tried to keep Jesus from leaving them. But as we read in verse 43 Jesus had an answer. He said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

Human pressure or our own opinions do not play a role in obeying God and following His commands. We preach the Gospel of God because that is what He has called us to do.

But there is another question here. Are we like the people in Capernaum? Do we want to keep Jesus for ourselves? Or do we share Him gladly with others?

That was a day in Jesus' life. What a day that was. Lived to the full, lived intensively, lived in the power of the Spirit, lived in fellowship with and obedience to the Father, lived to the glory of God.

Is that how we live?"

We can now watch, listen or read the words to a newer song, written in 2014, No other name. You may want to singalong when it becomes more familiar.

One Name
holds weight above them all.
His fame

outlasts the earth He formed.
His praise
resounds beyond the stars
and echoes in our hearts,
The greatest One of all.

His face
shines brighter than the sun.
His grace
as boundless as His love.
He reigns
with healing in His wings,
the King above all kings
the greatest One of all.

Lift up our eyes, see the King has come.
Light of the world
reaching out for us,
there is no other Name
there is no other Name,
Jesus Christ our God, oh-oh.
Seated on high the undefeated One,
mountains bow down as we lift Him up,
there is no other Name
there is no other Name,
Jesus Christ our God, oh-oh.

Find hope
when all the world seems lost.
Behold
the triumph of the cross.
His power has trampled death and grave,
our life found in His Name,
the greatest Name of all.
Lift up our eyes see the King has come....

The earth will shake
and tremble before Him,
chains will break
as heaven and earth sing:
'Holy is the Name
Holy is the Name of Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.'
Lift up our eyes see the King has come...

Becky now leads us in our prayers.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We bring our prayers to you this morning with love in our hearts for all the wonderful blessings you bestow upon us each and every day. Even in the middle of this terrible pandemic we know that we can put our trust in you. We can come to you with all our anxieties and worries and know that you are always there to listen and comfort. What a wonderful blessing is that. We love you so much Father, and yet we don't tell you as often as we should. Most times we take each day for granted, and sometimes we even forget to pray. Forgive us Lord when we do that, there is no intent in it. Right now though, Lord, right now, we want you to know how much we all love you, and are so blessed that you are in our lives.

We give you thanks now for so many things in our life. We thank you for the NHS, for the scientists who have worked so hard and long to help to find a vaccine for this COVID-19. At long last we do seem to be getting on top of things, and hundreds and hundreds of the vaccines are going out daily. We thank you for the diligence of the volunteers and the fireman and the ambulance services. Lots of people are trying to become involved in the doling out of the vaccine and taking some of the pressures off the hospital.

We thank you Heavenly Father for the miracle of online schooling, for face time and for zoom, all this miracle technology that is keeping us sane at the moment. How very much harder would all this have been without these facilities.

We thank you for the dedicated carers in our nursing homes, and for their thoughts and ideas that are being introduced in the homes, letter writing, FaceTiming. Obviously this is not we would choose to be but is it is much more comforting than nothing.

We thank you on a different note, Father, for better days that are coming, and we are grateful that we can get out and about, for a bit of time spent outside in the sunshine and fresh air. We can see many signs of the early spring flowers appearing in gardens as we walk, and we are getting birds back to the feeders, a lovely sight to see. Thank you for the children we see out on their bikes, or walking their dogs, hearing laughter and chatter. Yes, life is different now and a bit soul-destroying but we are still very blessed. When we are feeling a little low Lord, help us to remember the people who have not got the luxuries that we have, the people in the far-off countries who have very poor sanitation or money or food or water, the very bare necessities of life. They are not blessed as we are with multiple doctors and nurses, with their knowledge and skills. They have no shelter from the scorching sun or the torrential storms and floods. People suffering from leprosy and river blindness, people dying from what is an every day illness to us.

Thank you for Brian and Jackie Chilvers, who work tirelessly, and other charity workers in whatever roles they play. Please Father God bless them all and keep them safe.

We give you thanks for our pastor Alec and ask you to bless Alec and Sibylle and their family as their lives are all topsy-turvy at this time. We pray as always for our deacons, and pray for your protection over them as they juggle their own personal lives as well as the extra needs of our church life here at Bethesda.

We pray for each other. We pray that the stronger ones of us can help the more vulnerable in the congregation. We pray for the people living alone, as well as feeling lonely and out of touch they may not be feeling well at this time. Help us Lord, to help each other. We pray for the very vulnerable persons who are not in a good place at all, who feel completely unable to cope. Please send someone to reach out to them.

As I draw my prayers to a close, Lord, we pray for all members of our congregation who are struggling at this time, both physically and emotionally. I do not have specific names, Father, but you do, you know each one of us by name, and each person's different needs, and I include myself in this request. Each time I reach out you are there for me, and I know that, and we know that as a church. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for loving us, blessing us and hearing our prayers. In Jesus name, Amen

We join in a final song: we can watch, listen or read the words - **Name of Jesus**

The name of Jesus is a refuge,
a shelter from the storm, a help to those who call.
The name of Jesus is a fortress,
a saving place to run, a hope unshakable.
When we fall You are the Saviour, when we call You are the answer,
there is power in Your name, there is power in Your name.
 In the name of Jesus
 there is life and healing,
 chains are broken in Your name.
 Every knee will bow down and our hearts will cry out
 songs of freedom in Your name, oh, in Your name.

Bring salvation, bring Your Kingdom
Let all that You have made bring glory to Your name
When we fall you are the Saviour, when we call You are the answer
there is power in Your name, there is power in Your name.
 In the name of Jesus
 there is life and healing,
 chains are broken in Your name.
 Every knee will bow down and our hearts will cry out
 songs of freedom in Your name, oh, in Your name.

When we fall you are the Saviour, when we call You are the answer
there is power in Your name, there is power in Your name.

In the name of Jesus....

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name" Philippians 2:9

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Daniel Carson / Ed Cash / Jesse Reeves / Kristian Stanfill / Matt Redman
The Name of Jesus Lyrics © Music Services, Inc
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZii7zjj3m4>
CCL No 5664

Alec brings our time together to a close.

"Hello again. We have almost come to the end of our online presentation for today, thank you for being with us, thank you for sharing with us in worship of the living God God, in prayer and in listening to his word. I hope it's been an encouragement to you, as well as a challenge. Look forward to seeing you again in the weeks to come.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask myself or any other member of the church leadership, please send a message to our contact board on our home page, send a message through Facebook or through our YouTube channel where you are watching now.

(I have included a bonus song once again this week, after the blessing, this time in Urdu and Hindi, the song Teri Ulfat, sung by Faraz Nayyer, who is that with English subtitles hope you enjoyed listening to that, you can recommend it to your friends and neighbours as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlc2vvOwj38>)

Let's pray together.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. Amen.

Goodbye, see you again soon, God bless you."

We hope you find this helpful. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for ways we can improve this outline or anything you would like to be included.

Judith, 01254 665717.

Remember you can join in with our virtual fellowship on Sundays at 11.45, **Meeting ID: 962 5576 8258, Passcode: 491306**. Wednesdays at 2.30pm **Meeting ID: 954 0425 3654, Passcode: 064246**.and the prayer meeting on Thursdays at 7.30pm. **Meeting ID: 923 9680 7071, Passcode: 411034** Its very easy to join on the phone, and it would be lovely to hear your voices again!

Just ring 02034 815237, then the ID and password as above!

