

Reflection

By James Fang

May 5, 2020

As I studied the book of Mark this week, I couldn't help but feel some sense of relief and joy. It was very assuring to be able to study Mark with a friendly group of people over the Zoom videoconferencing application. The people in my group were all near my age, as most were college students in Montreal or BC. It has been a rough year for me, mentally, so having a social outlet like this was invaluable.

What struck me about the passages of Mark was Jesus' ability to heal people, particularly poor people, sick people, blind people. It shows his boundless love and grace, that he would do these things in the first place, and focus on that, instead of more material things. Jesus doesn't care about fame or popularity or his ego; he cares more about making a difference, a positive one.

This reminded me of the COVID-19 crisis we are going through now. I was surprised by how quickly the crisis escalated and affected the entire globe, causing so much suffering and pain, but I was also impressed by the way governments and ordinary people mobilized to fight the virus. Throughout this crisis, I witnessed ordinary people going to work, even during a dangerous and frightening time. I saw people working at grocery stores, making sure people still get the food they need. I saw how my own university, McGill, rapidly transitioned to an online teaching format in order to accommodate student's learning. And I saw Christian clubs, including InterVarsity, use Zoom to host bible studies and discussions, so that people could stay connected during this challenging time.

The principal of McGill, Suzanne Fortier, wrote in a letter, "the pandemic is a call to action to create a world that is more just, more compassionate, and more humane." I couldn't agree more. This COVID-19 crisis saw a lot of pain, and it was amazing to see people give time to stop the virus, just as Jesus gave time to heal people. This crisis also showed that we can't take things for granted, that we are all interconnected as one human family, and that we have to look out for each other.

Once I get back to school (I dropped my courses this semester for personal reasons), I hope to finish with a degree in Economics, and see where that takes me, whether it's law school, work as an economic consultant for a humanitarian organization, or maybe a job with InterVarsity! My resolve to help others has only strengthened this year.

I would like to end with a line from Mark 5.21-40, where Jesus healed a girl who was at the point of death: "Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Tal'itha cu'mi'; which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'" And immediately the girl got up and walked..."