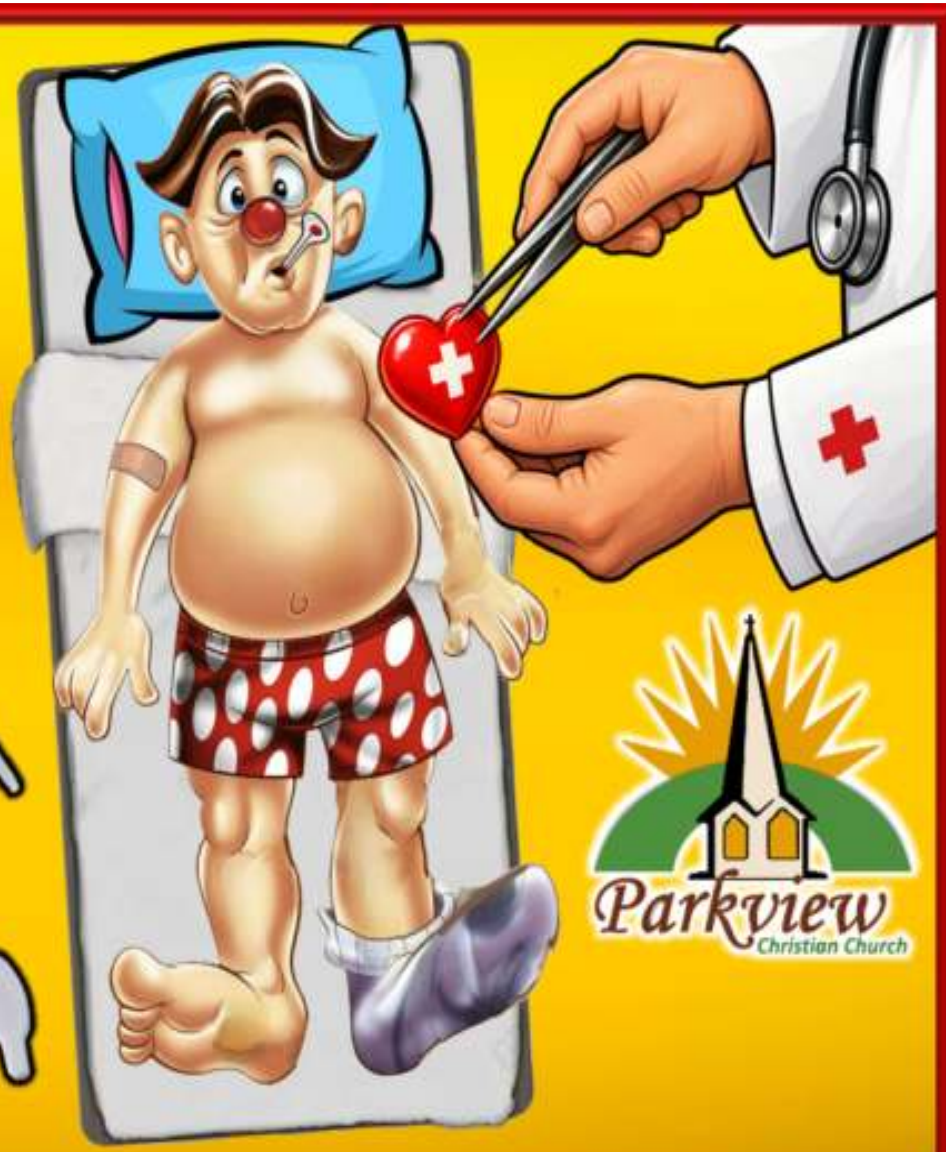
OPERATION

Allowing the Great Physician to Work in Our Life



Parkview
Christian Church

Writers Cramp



Medically, writer's cramp is a neurological condition

The muscles are healthy and the hand is capable

The problem is that the brain sends the wrong signals



Everything works fine until the moment the hand tries to do the very thing it was trained to do

What if something similar has happened in the church when it comes to serving?

Diagnosis #1

Serving has become task specific



The hand works everywhere else but freezes when it's time to write.

People lead at work

Organize households

Serve in schools, organizations and communities

Carry heavy responsibility all week



Diagnosis #1

Serving has become task specific



But when it comes to serving in the church, they hesitate, withdraw, or burn out



Because serving has been reduced to:

- **Slots to fill**
- **Needs to meet**
- **Roles to rotate**

Instead of being understood as a way of life shaped by the gospel

Diagnosis #2



The Brain has been Taught the Wrong Signals

Writer's cramp isn't about weak muscles, it's about confused communication

Guilt **Pressure** **Scarcity**	**People grip tighter, serve longer than they should, or say yes when they should rest**
Obligation	**When the signals are wrong long enough, something deeper breaks**



Diagnosis #3

Serving has been Detached from Healing



Serving consistently produces resentment instead of joy, fatigue instead of life, avoidance instead of engagement, something is spiritually off



"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17

Jesus does not build His ministry by recruiting volunteers

Diagnosis #3

Serving has been Detached from Healing



The church didn't begin as an organization, it began as a recovery room

And when we forget that, serving becomes something broken people think they owe God, instead of something healed people naturally do



If serving is how, you earn belonging, you're gripping too hard

The Treatment Plan



Before Jesus ever corrects behavior,
He resets understanding

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15

Serving existed before sin

Work existed before guilt

Participation existed before pressure

Serving was not a punishment, it was a privilege

The Treatment Plan



For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

We are not God's workmanship because we serve, we serve because we already are God's workmanship

Serving is not the path to identity, serving flows from identity



The Treatment Plan



Jesus dealt with serving problems all the time

He encountered anxious servers, like Martha, who were doing the right things but from the wrong place



Jesus also dealt with exhausted servers; people weighed down by expectations, religious pressure, and unspoken demands

He reminds people that grace comes first; ALWAYS

The Treatment Plan



The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:2-5

The Treatment Plan



Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

John 13:3

Jesus knew who He was

Jesus knew where He came from

Jesus knew where He was going **He got up and served**

we see the picture again, Jesus did not serve to discover His identity; He served from it

The Treatment Plan

"Do you understand what I have done for you?"

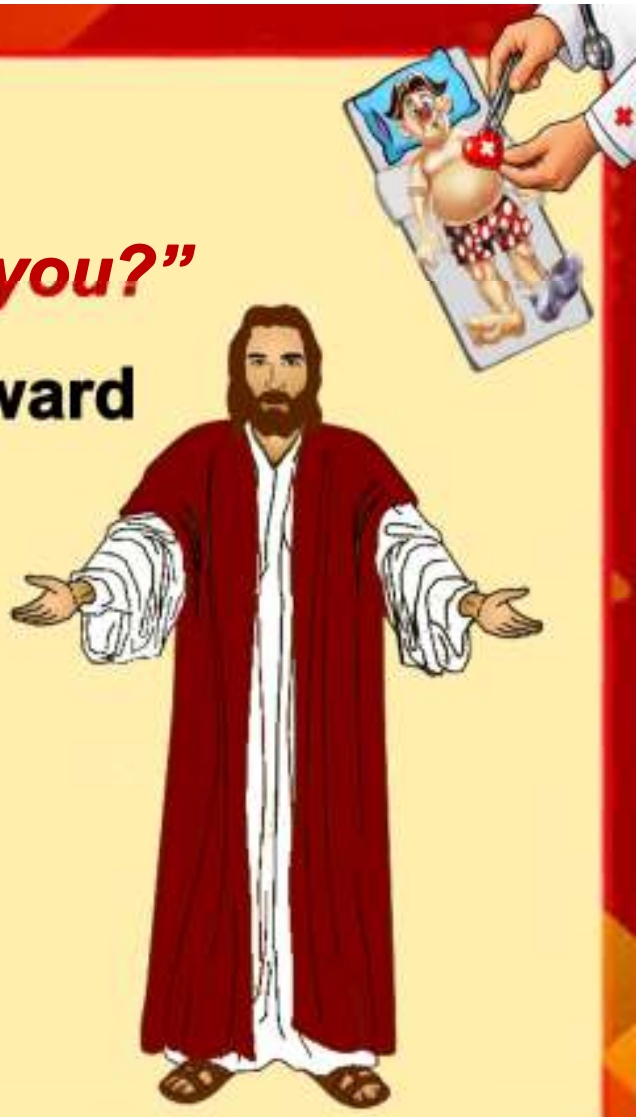
Serving is going to be the norm going forward

Not as obligation Not as earning

As the natural expression of healed, secure love

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

The blessing is becoming more like Him



The Purpose of Serving

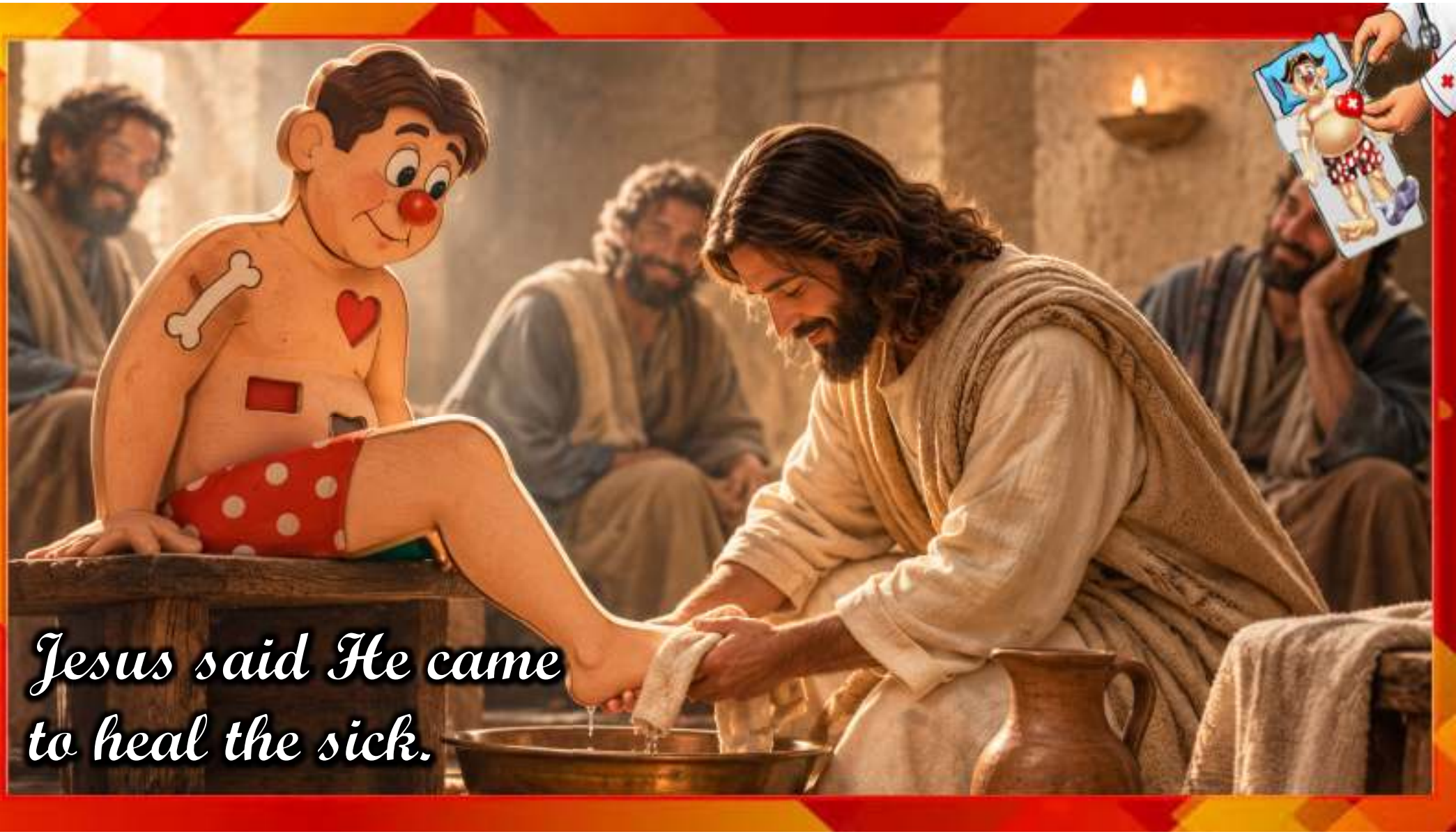
Not to do more, but to heal and be healed

Where has serving become painful instead of joyful?

What signals have I been responding to?

Am I serving to earn something Jesus already gave?




Jesus said He came
to heal the sick.