

When Jesus Comes to Town....

This Coming Sunday's Scripture talks about a healing story of Jesus' opening days as he enters a new town at the start of his ministry.

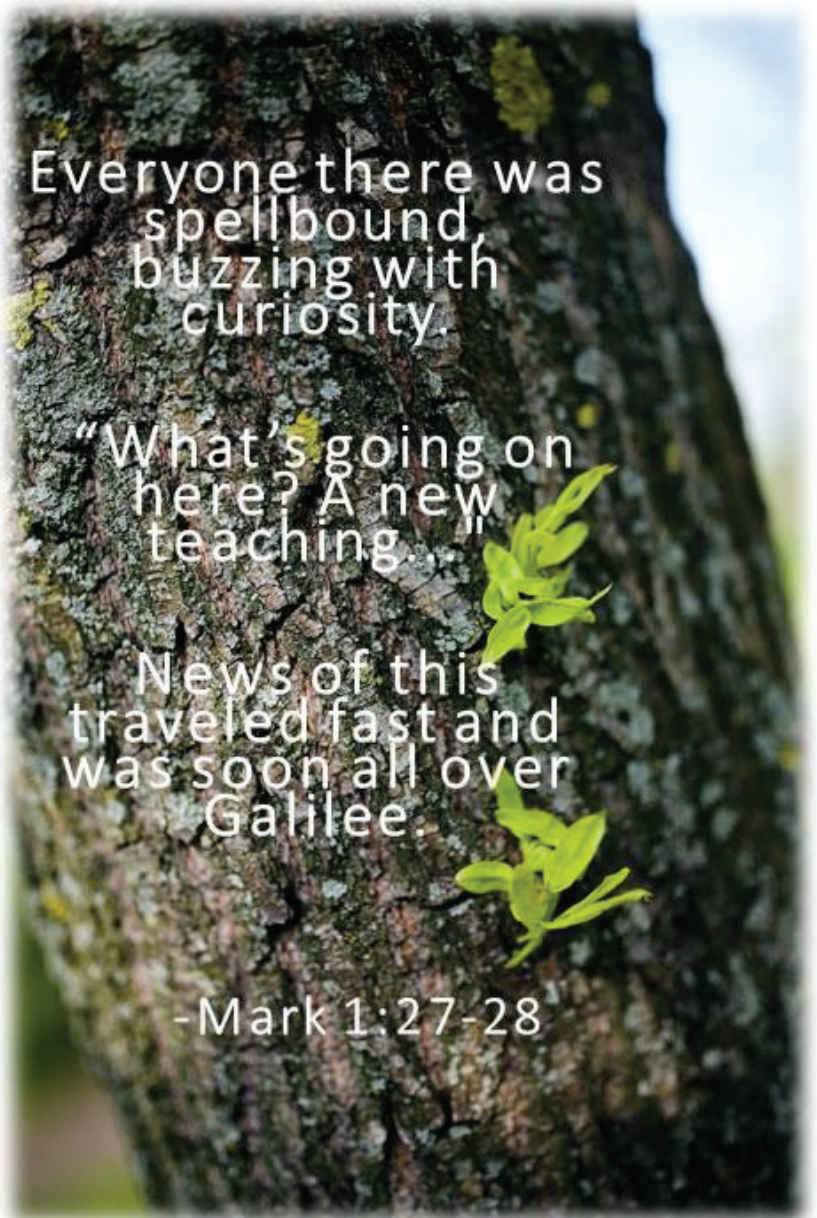
In Jesus' healing stories it is very easy to miss the community's influence. We more often focus our attention on the healing miracle itself or the person being healed and often miss other details like the people in attendance.

We could think of them as if they were backup singers in a song or the chorus of classic Greek play.

The backup singers of a song add harmony, dimension and context to the song making it a much richer experience.

The chorus in a Greek play had an important role too. The chorus was a group of actors who described and commented upon the main action of the play using singing, dancing, and recitation. The chorus helps the audience to become a part of the story.

The chorus is like having all your aunts, uncles and grandparents



Everyone there was
spellbound,
buzzing with
curiosity.

"What's going on
here? A new
teaching..."

News of this
traveled fast and
was soon all over
Galilee.

-Mark 1:27-28

commenting on your life. As background figures the chorus and commentators help us, the audience get a perspective of what's happening and help us get into the story.

Even though it seems to be operating only in the background, the community in Jesus' stories is a like a chorus but much more, it is a vital part of what's happening.

For example, in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," it's the background community of castle servants who work to transform the lives of Belle and Beast and help them find friendship and hope for a new future together.



The community in Mark's story for this Sunday's reading plays an important role in Jesus' ministry. The presence of the community is not merely incidental; its presence is intentional pushing well beyond the "oohs" and "ahhs" that we read in Mark's gospel.

Major transformations and substantive changes take place that affect the dynamics and very future of what happens when Jesus comes to town. These important changes are played out in the community's response to his ministry there.

There are also big and exciting changes coming to St. Timothy as this community welcomes its new pastor. Pastor Kimberly Cooper will be starting this month to bring her ministry and vision and energy and experience to work together to transform both the church and the Wayne community. It is a time of celebration and joy for all of us as and a great start for the new year.

Pastor Bernd, Interim Pastor