

# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

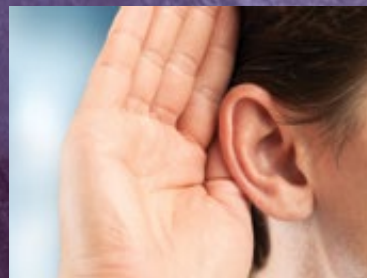
SERMONS FOR LENT



*Ash Wednesday*  
FORGIVER



*Week 1*  
HEALER



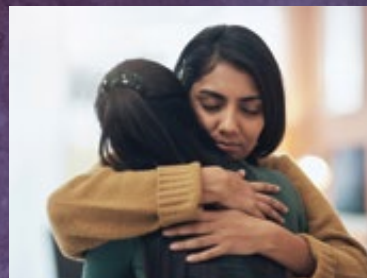
*Week 2*  
LISTENER



*Week 3*  
ENCOURAGER



*Week 4*  
PROTECTOR



*Week 5*  
COMFORTER

# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERMONS FOR LENT

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# SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERMONS FOR LENT

WEEK 1:  
HEALER

SERMON

**P** Warsan Shire is a contemporary poet. Her life has intersected with several different continents and many different places. She was born in Kenya to parents from Somalia. She was raised in Britain but now lives in the United States. Shire has seen—and lived in—many different parts of the world.

This global influence is apparent in her poetry. One of her poems is titled, “What They Did Yesterday Afternoon.” In this poem, Warsan describes holding an atlas in her lap. As she looks at all the different places and parts of the world, the continents and countries, she runs her fingers across the whole world. As she places a hand on the atlas, she asks, “Where does it hurt?” Like a parent asking a young child to point to the place of pain, she asks the world where it hurts. And it answered her: “Everywhere. Everywhere. Everywhere.”

Where does it hurt? Everywhere. This whole world is hurting. I don’t need to convince you of this—you already know this. This is a sin-sick, hurting world. We see it all over the news and all over the world: war, famine, disease, displacement and hate. Yet, not only does the world hurt because of sin, but we hurt because of sin. You and I, we have all felt the hurt of sin. We each have regrets and guilt. We have shame that we want to hide. We have hurts that we have inflicted on others, and we have hurts that others have inflicted on us. Where does it hurt in our own lives? Everywhere.

Where does it hurt? Jesus did not avoid this question. In response to the question, “Where does it hurt?” Jesus answered, “I will go to where it hurts.” This is the essence of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus is God going to where it hurts. In Matthew 8, we hear about Jesus going to where it hurts: “And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him” (Matthew 8:14-15).

We hear that Peter’s mother-in-law is hurting with a high fever. In a time before antibiotics and fever-reducing medication, this woman’s fever could have been life threatening. The hurt of a fever could have easily become the hurt of death. In the midst of this, we hear that Jesus, like a physician making a house call, visits the home of Peter’s mother-in-law. Jesus touches her hand and heals this woman. She gets up immediately and begins making lunch. The healing that Jesus brought to her was so thorough and so complete that she is at 100% right away. No lingering cough or fatigue. Just back at it!

Notice how Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law: “He touched her hand” (Matthew 8:15). The mere touch of Jesus—with his hands—brings healing. In the hands of Jesus, we find a healing power. What a healer we find in Jesus and his hands! Throughout the Gospels we hear about Jesus placing his hands on people and healing them:

- “..he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them” (Mark 6:5).
- “Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly” (Mark 8:25).
- “Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them” (Luke 4:40).

Healing is found in the hands of Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, he puts his healing hands on you. The healing hands of Jesus are placed on you through faith in him. When your life is in the hands of Jesus, you find healing peace, comfort, promise and hope. 1 Peter 2 tells us, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24). The wounded hands of Jesus are the healing hands of Jesus. What a healer we have in Jesus!

And, yet, God has a peculiar plan for healing. The hands of Jesus that bring healing are wounded hands. Though we find healing in the hands of Jesus, that healing is hidden amid hurts. God brings healing by drawing near to our hurts. Through the prophet Isaiah, God told us to expect this from Jesus. Isaiah 53:3 tells us that God’s suffering servant—Jesus—would go to where it hurts: “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...” (Isaiah 53:3).