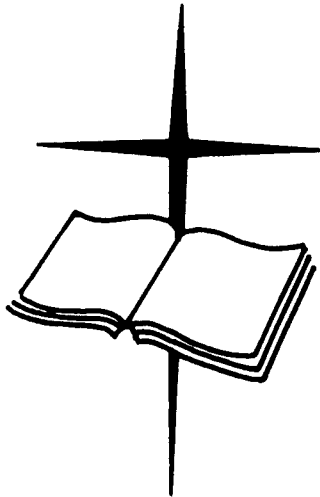


ALL THINGS “WELL”

(The Healing Of The Deaf And Dumb Man Of Decapolis)
Mark 7:31-37



What A Healing Ministry

- Jesus Separates
- Jesus Spits
- Jesus Sees
- Jesus Sighs
- Jesus Speaks

“He hath done all things well.” (v.37)

Bill Kirk

“ALL THINGS WELL”

Text: Mark 7:31-37

Subject: The Healing Of The Deaf And Dumb Man Of Decapolis

Introduction

Fact: Mark is the only one of the evangelists to record this account of Jesus.

Fact: We find Jesus attempting to get alone for some R & R.

“He arose and entered into an house and would no man know it” (v. 24)

Fact: In (v. 31), Jesus departs from Tyre and Sidon.

Fact: He travels through the district of Decapolis.

Fact: This district consisted of 10 cities, which had been granted special privileges by the Roman conquerors in 65 B.C.

Fact: It was here that Jesus travels...

...to retreat into privacy

...to escape the opposition

...to instruct His disciples

...to visit certain towns

...to touch people with special needs.

Questions With Answers

- #1. Why did Jesus call this man aside? (v. 33)
- #2. Why did Jesus put His fingers in the ears? (v. 33)
- #3. Why did Jesus spit and touch the man’s tongue? (v. 33)
- #4. Why did Jesus look up towards heaven? (v. 34)
- #5. Why did Jesus sigh? (v. 34)
- #6. What did Jesus mean when he said “Ephphata”? (v. 34)
- #7. And what difference does it all make in your life and mine?

I. Jesus Separates

Fact: The Bible records the malady of this man:

#1. He had trouble hearing,

#2. He had trouble speaking.

Fact: The multitude (v. 32) brought the man to Jesus expecting 2 things:

#1. They beseeched Jesus to put His hands upon him.

#2. They expected Jesus to heal the man in front of everybody.

(But Jesus Had Other Plans)

“And He took him aside from the multitude” (v. 33)

Question: Why did Jesus take the man aside in private?

Question: Why did Jesus call him away from the crowd?

Question: Why did Jesus separate and isolate this man?

(The Same Reason He Has Drawn You And I Apart To His House This Day)

#1. To fix his attention on Jesus alone.

#2. To remove this man from earthly distractions.

#3. To excite this man’s confidence in Jesus alone.

#4. To leave deep spiritual impressions upon the heart.

#5. To teach us all that quiet times are growing times.

Question: What happens when we disconnect ourselves from the temporary value system of the world?

Answer: We connect ourselves with God’s value system when alone with God.

- ◆ A time when God narrows our interests,
- ◆ A time when God rivets our attention,
- ◆ A time when God separates us from the non-redemptive stuff around us.

Illustration

Six weeks before she died, Marilyn Monroe wrote these words:
 “It seems like everyone wants a piece of my life”.

Question: Is there something God is wanting to separate you from?

Question: Has it been too long since you’ve been alone in the presence of God?

Question: Is God calling and pulling you away from busyness and noisiness and distracting voices?

II. Jesus Spits

“He spit and touched his tongue” (v. 33)

“Before Jesus spit, He “Put His fingers into his ears” (v. 33)

(Why Fingers In His Ears?)

- #1. The man couldn’t hear or speak,
- #2. The man couldn’t express how he felt,
- #3. So, if he was to be encouraged at all, it had to be by the touch of Jesus.

(Jesus Touches His Ears...)

...to awaken faith and excite expectation.

...to pull down every doubt that Jesus heals.

...to tell the man, “I can overcome this obstacle”.

...to tell you and me, “I can pierce through every objection as to why you cannot be healed by the power of God”.

(Then Jesus Spits And Touches)

- #1. There wasn’t any healing virtue in the saliva or spittle,
- #2. But Jesus’ saliva was a symbol to the man and to us that...

- ◆ ...The healing virtue of Jesus within Him, emanates and flows from Jesus alone.
- ◆ ...The spittle is symbolic of His virtue to give out.
- ◆ ...The spittle is symbolic of the flowing of His power. (Power that we should expect from Jesus).
- ◆ ...Mercy flows out of Jesus (His spittle) and is received by us. (He touched the man).

(Why The Spittle?)

To Let Us Know Something:

- #1. That we are restored and healed through the gifts flowing out of Jesus (and into us).
- #2. That Jesus is wanting to touch us! Heal us and restore us!
- #3. That Jesus is wanting to give of Himself and excite faith in us to believe for the impossible.

III. Jesus Sees

“And looking up to heaven” (v. 34)

Question: Which way did Jesus look?

Answer: “Up to heaven”

Question: Why did Jesus look up?

Answer: Two reasons:

- #1. He knew that only His Father above had the power to answer His prayer.
(I call this Dependence).
- #2. He wanted us to know where our help comes from in time of need.
(I call this Direction)

Question: Which way are you looking?

Question: Are you depending on Father for answered prayer?

Question: Is your direction and focus "Upward"?

(Never Forget)

- ◆ Horizontal people live agitated, Vertical people live anxious free.
- ◆ Horizontal people toss and turn, Vertical people sleep well at night.
- ◆ Horizontal people have to strive and strive and strive, Vertical people cast all their cares upon the Lord.

IV. Jesus Sighs

"And looking up to heaven, He sighed" (v. 34)

Fact: The word "Sighed" means "Groaned".

Question: Why did Jesus groan?

- #1. Because he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
- #2. Because He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
- #3. Because He is moved with compassion towards us all.
- #4. Because His heart is broken over those in chains.
- #5. Because He sees what sin has done to us all.
- #6. Because He sees those enslaved to sin this very hour.
- #7. Because He sees and seeks to restore the wounds that have left a scar.

V. Jesus Speaks

Jesus said to the man "Ephphatha" (v. 34)

Question: Why did Jesus say this and what does it mean?

- ◆ "Ephphata" is an Aramaic word that means "Be released".
 - #1. There was a look (Jesus sees),
 - #2. There was a groan (Jesus feels),
 - #3. There was a word (Jesus speaks).
- ◆ Jesus releases the man of his chains.
- ◆ Jesus releases the man of his bondage.
- ◆ Jesus releases the man of his prison.

(And Jesus Still Releases Today)

- ◆ He releases all who want to be free.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Free from sin | 6. Free from drug addiction | 11. Free from worry |
| 2. Free from guilt | 7. Free from pornography | 12. Free from greed |
| 3. Free from condemnation | 8. Free from fear | 13. Free from anxiety |
| 4. Free from alcohol | 9. Free from bitterness | 14. Free from self-centeredness |
| 5. Free from cigarettes | 10. Free from anger | 15. Free from insecurity |

(What A Revelation In This Story)

- #1. Jesus **Separates** (and calls us to Himself)
- #2. Jesus **Spits** (to show us that all healing virtue flows from Him alone).
- #3. Jesus **Sees** (and looks heavenward wanting us to do the same).
- #4. Jesus **Sighs** (and feels what you feel this hour).
- #5. Jesus **Speaks** ("Ephphatha" or "Be Released", delivered and go home free by the power of God!!!)

Life Application From Verse 33
“And Jesus Took Him Aside From The Multitude”
(Which Means:)

- #1. In solitude we learn to get alone with Jesus.
- #2. In solitude we learn to stop moving.
- #3. In solitude we learn to be quiet.
- #4. In solitude we learn to reorient our lives.
- #5. In solitude we learn to maintain plain speech.
- #6. In solitude we learn to be sensitive to “Divine Whispers”.
- #7. In solitude we learn to respond to the pain of others.
- #8. In solitude we learn to discern the voice of God.
- #9. In solitude we learn to let God be our justifier.
- #10. In solitude we learn to release others to God.
- #11. In solitude we learn to relinquish offences over to God.
- #12. In solitude we learn to walk with a quiet spirit.

(But Remember After You Get Alone)

- ◆ All solitude (without fellowship and community) leads to self-infatuation and despair.
- ◆ All fellowship (without solitude) leads to lack of feeling and rambling words.

(And Don't Forget)

- #1. Solitude is more a state of mind and heart than it is a place.
- #2. Solitude of the heart can be maintained in the midst of crowds.
- #3. Solitude of heart removes the fear of being alone (for you know that you are not alone) – Neither do we fear being with others, for they do not control us.

(In Plain Vanilla)

- ◆ Whether alone or among people, you always carry with you a portable sanctuary of the heart.

“Come Away To A Solitary Place” (Mark 6:31)

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor
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