

Come to the One who does all Things Well

6.24.18

Message 32

Mark Series

Mark 7:31–37 (NIV)

Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man

7:31–37pp—Mt 15:29–31

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "**Be opened!**"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

1. In the Beginning, God's Work was Perfect.

A. God didn't create the fallen condition we experience today.

1. In the beginning there were no earthquakes or wildfires.
2. There was no sickness or disease.
3. All of these are the result of sin and the Fall.
4. When the Presence of God was removed, chaos was the result.

B. In today's passage, Jesus heals a deaf man who could hardly talk.

1. After His healing, the crowd shouts in amazement "Jesus has done everything well."

2. This phrase is an allusion to Genesis 1:31,

Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

C. The miracle recorded in Mark 7:31-37 announces Jesus' Divine origins, for only God himself does "everything well".

1. William Barclay says that **every time Jesus healed the sick, He was beginning the work of creation again.**

2. "When it was completed, the people declared that he had done all things well. That is none other than the verdict of God upon his own creation in the very beginning (Genesis 1:31). When Jesus came, bringing healing to broken bodies and salvation to human souls, he had begun the work of creation all over again. In the beginning, everything had been good; human sin had spoiled it all; and now Jesus was bringing back the beauty of God to the world which human sin had rendered ugly."¹

D. This morning, we want to look at this passage to see a picture of the Jesus who does all things well.

1. If something in your life is broken, I want to show you today the one who heals.

2. If your life can only be described as chaotic, I want to show you today the Jesus who brings chaos back into order.

3. If your life is good right now, I want to encourage you to be a good friend and bring those you love to the One who can heal and restore.

¹ William Barclay, [*The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Mark*](#), The New Daily Study Bible (Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 2001), 210.

2. The Passage begins with people bringing a disabled man to Jesus.

A. Several times throughout Scripture, it is a group of people who are responsible for bringing people to Jesus.

1. In this instance, the man is able to walk.
2. But, unable to hear, perhaps he has given up or avoids crowds.
 - a. Perhaps He has spent most of his adult life begging.
 - b. And when he heard that Jesus was coming to town, he didn't want to beg one more time.

B. Whatever the man's story, there was a group of people who were willing to do the begging on his behalf.

1. They cared enough to bring this man to Jesus.
2. They cared enough to beg when the man could not speak clearly enough to beg for himself.
3. I wonder, "If it wasn't for these friends would this man have missed Jesus and the healing that happened that day?"

C. One of your responsibilities as a Christian is to intercede and even beg on their behalf.

1. We all have friends that are so far from God, that they don't have the presence of mind to pray for themselves.
2. Perhaps sin has them so deceived that they cannot even see their sin and true condition.
3. In these instances, you and I are called to intercede for them in prayer.
 - a. **To intercede is to pray for someone as though the need is your own.**
 - b. We all have people in our lives who need us to take them to Jesus, in prayer.

3. The man is brought to Jesus deaf and hardly able to speak.

A. A couple of weeks ago, Pastor Blue Seeley shared about the difficulties the deaf have in our modern world.

1. It isn't easy to be deaf or hard of hearing.
 - a. Imagine the difficulties of deafness in the ancient world.
 - b. Not only can this man not hear, but his deafness makes it very difficult for him to speak.
2. We know that, up until this point, Jesus had healed many people already.
 - a. But this is the first time it is said that Jesus healed a deaf person.
 - b. **Why hasn't Jesus healed any deaf people in the first 7 chapter of Mark?**

B. **The healing of the deaf was a sign of the Messiah.**

1. The Old Testament prophecies of a Messiah who would come and reverse the curse of sin and establish His heavenly kingdom.
2. Many in Jesus' day were looking for a triumphant Messiah who would come and overthrow Rome and make Israel the nation she was prophesied to be.
 - a. Throughout Scripture, there were prophecies about what the Messiah would do and what He would be.
 - b. And one key prophecy was that the Messiah would make the deaf hear and those who could not speak, speak clearly.
 - c. One KEY passage is Isaiah 35

READ Isaiah 35

C. Isaiah 35 foretells of a future, glorious day.

1. It is the day Israel had been dreaming of:

- a. When all that is wrong with the world is made right.
- b. No more sickness, nor pain.
- c. The fallenness of nature, like deserts and dangerous animals, will be restored back to their original condition.
- d. And, more importantly for Israel, the Lord will prepare a road for His people that leads to God's presence in Jerusalem.

2. Some of the evidence of that day's approaching is the healing of the blind, lame, deaf and mute.

- a. In Israel's history, there had been blind people healed.
- b. There was also the lame who were made to walk.
- c. But there were two miracles that were reserved specifically for the Messiah: The healing of the deaf and the mute.

3. Mark wanted His audience to make this connection between what Jesus was doing and what Isaiah prophesied in 35.

- a. Unfortunately, this connection is lost in English.
- b. The Greek word Mark uses for "hardly talk" is used only one time in the New Testament and it is here in Mark 7.
- c. It is also used only one other time, in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and it is used in Isaiah 35 referring to the mute.
- d. What Mark was doing was showing that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah.
- e. Jesus was the "Savior" they had been looking for.

That brings us to the weird way Jesus healed this man

4. We know that Jesus doesn't do anything without a reason.

- A. But does anybody here think that what Jesus did seems gross?

1. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears.
2. Then Jesus spits on his fingers and then touches the man's tongue.
3. If Jesus is the God who does all things well, then what was Jesus doing?

B. First, Jesus takes the man away from the crowd.

1. Jesus wanted to establish a relationship with this man.
 - a. Healing doesn't happen outside of the relationship.
 - b. So Jesus brought the man away from the friends and the crowd so that He could minister to him personally and specifically.
2. **If you desire to be healed without desiring a relationship with Jesus, you are missing the reason Jesus came to heal.**
 - a. The purpose of healing is not to avoid pain.
 - b. **The purpose of healing is to experience the presence and power of God in your life.**
 - c. We can't earnestly desire the gift and not the giver.
 - d. Therefore, Jesus pulls the man aside and begins to create a relationship with Him.

C. The next act of Jesus demonstrated Jesus' desire to heal the man.

1. The man could not hear and could barely speak.
 - a. Jesus wanted to demonstrate His desire to heal the man in a way the man could comprehend.
 - b. Perhaps Jesus wanted the man to believe before he was healed, and the man couldn't yet understand what was going on.
2. The first thing Jesus does is He sticks his fingers in the man's ears.

- a. This seems random.
- b. But imagine Jesus looking the man in the face and taking his fingers and then touching the man's ears.
- c. This would start the process of the man beginning to believe that the One who stood before Him was going to heal his mouth.

3. Then, Jesus spits on his finger and touches the man's tongue.

- a. That seems like a nasty insult.
- b. But in Jesus' day, spit was considered to have healing properties.
- c. Again, Jesus is communicating across the barriers that Jesus desired to heal the man of his deafness and his speech difficulty.
- d. "Through touch and the use of spittle Jesus entered into the mental world of the man and gained his confidence."²

D. Then Jesus sighs deeply and speaks one word "Open".

1. Jesus sighs to demonstrate His personal frustration with sin, disease, and sickness.

- a. Jesus, the one who was there at creation, did not create His people to be sick.
- b. This was not the original intent for humanity.
- c. Yet, because of the influence of sin on the world, men like this one were born blind, or deaf, or mute, or lame.

2. Jesus' coming was the start of the reversal of the influence of sin, sickness, and death.

² William L. Lane, *The Gospel of Mark*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974), 266-267.

a. Jesus, who does all things well, was again making this man new and whole.

b. Jesus used this man as an example of what He was doing for the world as a whole:

c. Jesus was restoring God's creation back to its original order.

1. When God created the world, He declared it to be good.

2. Sin marred the goodness but Jesus came to bring it back.

5. We have come today to the Savior who does all things well.

A. When our world seems to spin out of control, Jesus is the one that can right it.

1. When we are broken, Jesus can make us whole.

2. When we face adversity, trials, suffering, and pain Jesus is the One who allows us to overcome and conquer.

B. Today I invite you to come to Jesus with your problems, your hurts, and your burdens.

1. I can't promise you will be healed supernaturally today like this man was in Mark 7.

2. What I can promise you are Jesus' love and compassion.

3. He wants to be in a relationship with you.

4. He wants to change you, heal you, and make all things new.

C. I can promise that everything Jesus does is done well and with excellence.

1. It may not always make sense at the moment.

2. What Jesus does may make you uncomfortable at the moment.

3. But He won't mislead you or fail you.

6. For those of you who don't feel connected to Jesus, I want you to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit this morning.

A. More important than healing in your body is healing in your spirit.

1. If the Lord heals you of your sickness or disease today, but you don't follow after Him you have missed the point.

2. Jesus is calling out to each one of us to have a relationship with Him.

3. To know Him and to experience the glory of His presence and power.

B. Maybe you find yourself in a place where you desire the gifts of God more than the presence of God.

1. There is a great temptation to pray more for our needs than for God's presence in our lives.

2. For some of us, the best thing we can do this morning during prayer time is to spend a few moments in the presence of God reconnecting with Him.

Prayer