

He Has Done All Things Well

I would like for you to ask yourself: Has Jesus done anything for you? If He has done something for you, how would you describe it?

At the end of Mark 7, Jesus comes to the Decapolis and the people bring a deaf man to Jesus for healing. Jesus heals this poor man and the crowds marveled. They saw His power and they were amazed. They said, **“He has done all things well.”** Today I want you to see that Jesus still has the power to do all things well and to amaze those who come to Him.

Mark 7:31-37

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.

32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.

33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.

34 Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.

36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it.

37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The passage opens with Jesus leaving the Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon headed back to Galilee. But, Jesus and His men do not go straight back to Galilee. Verse 31 tells us that they **“came through the midst of the region of Decapolis.”**

If you look at a map of where they were and where they were headed to, you would see that Jesus and His men took the long way around. In fact, going through the Decapolis to get to Galilee is like going through Montrose to get to Rifle! This was no short trip on foot. A journey all that way through that kind of terrain may have taken as long as six to eight months on foot.

That is several months of the Lord’s three and a half year ministry of which we have very little record in the Gospels. What was He doing? I would imagine that He was teaching His disciples and training them for the difficult days ahead. When He and His men return to Galilee and travel to Judea, Jesus finds Himself under increasing attack by the Jews. This will be one of the last opportunities that He will have to spend extended time alone with His disciples before He goes to Calvary to die.

We have read about the Decapolis already in Mark's gospel. If you will remember, Jesus and His disciples had traveled by boat to the southeast side of the Sea of Galilee in Mark 5. There Jesus cast a legion of demons out of the Gaderene Demoniak. Those demons had entered into a herd of swine and the pigs had all drowned. The people of that region had asked Jesus to leave their

country, Mark 5:17. The people of Decapolis had rejected Jesus and forced Him to leave.

Now He returns and they receive Him with open arms. Why the change? What made the difference? The answer can be found in Mark 5:19-20. **"However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.' And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled."** That redeemed demoniac went home and told everyone he met what Jesus had done for him. He was such an effective witness that the people were eager for Jesus to come back to town, and when He did, they embraced Him. What a lesson for those who know the Lord. We should be in the business of magnifying Him!

By the way, it thrills my heart that Jesus went back! They rejected Him and He would have been justified had He never returned. But, Jesus came back and gave them a second chance! Aren't you grateful that He didn't write you off the first time you rejected Him? I praise His name that He keeps on loving; He keeps wooing; He keeps drawing; He keeps calling; until He gets what He's after! Praise His name!

Let's watch Him work in this miracle and learn the lessons contained here.

I. THE MAN AND HIS CONDITION v. 32

The Bible tells us that this man was "deaf". The word means "to blunt or to dull". It may have been that this man lost his hearing as the result of an injury; or he may have been born deaf. Either way, this poor man cannot hear. Not only was he deaf, but he also had a speech impediment. He could talk, but his speech was impaired. These two conditions seem to go hand in hand. Because a deaf person cannot hear themselves saying words, they tend to have trouble using verbal language correctly.

While this man's condition is tragic, this verse is a blessing. This man, even though he was handicapped, had people around him that cared about him. They heard that Jesus was passing by and they brought their deaf friend to Jesus. They just believed that the man Who had cast a legion of demons out of the demoniac could heal this poor handicapped man!

There was something in the heart of Jesus that drew Him to the handicapped. He loved people who were often cast aside by others. Jesus spent much time ministering to those with physical infirmities because He had a heart full of love and compassion for their needs. I would say that if you want to be like Jesus you should reach out to the handicapped! He loved them and ministered to them and we should do the same.

Besides that, handicapped people seem to be drawn to Jesus. And do you know why? It is because He accepts them and loves them just like they are. They are looking for that kind of love and acceptance from a society that rejects them because they are different. Jesus loves them like they are and so should we! There are many handicapped people who would love to hear the Gospel, if someone only cared enough to tell them.

The physical healings Jesus performed are wonderful illustrations of what He can do in the spiritual realm. You may have a good mind and a healthy body today.

You might not be blind, deaf, crippled, paralyzed or mentally challenged today, but if you are not saved, you have a far more serious handicap than any physical handicap ever endured by anyone in the history of the world. If you are lost, you have trouble hearing God. You have trouble seeing what He is doing. Your spirit is crippled and if you die in that condition, you will be lost forever! That is a serious condition to be in today!

One of these days the physically and mentally handicapped persons who have trusted Jesus will leave their infirmities behind forever. They will be raised up and receive new bodies and perfect minds. But, if a person dies without Jesus, they will leave this world and drop off into Hell! That is far more serious than any physical handicap a person can endure here!

II. THE MASTER AND HIS CURE v. 33-35

The people bring this poor man to Jesus and He does a great work in the man's life. I want to take a few minutes to watch how Jesus ministered to this man.

The first thing I notice is that Jesus "took him aside". The crowd expected Jesus to just touch him right there and heal him. But, Jesus is a gentleman! He does not embarrass the man more than he already is. This man is deaf! He probably has no idea what is going on.

The deaf will tell you that their affliction makes them a special class of people. Blindness and most other physical handicaps can be seen by others, and those who see the handicap make special allowance for the handicapped person. But, you can't see that a person is deaf! Often people treat the deaf like they are less intelligent than others just because they cannot hear. Often, the deaf are embarrassed by their condition and they withdraw into themselves rather than face a harsh staring public.

Jesus refuses to make a spectacle of this man. Jesus takes him aside and does a great work in his life. By taking him aside, Jesus is saying, "you are more than a problem, you are an individual and you are important to me! I care about you!"

Thank God for the personal touch of Jesus! He doesn't treat people like they are mere numbers. Just look at the ministry of Jesus. He healed many people, but His methods varied from case to case. He touched a leper. He put mud on a blind man's eye and made him go wash in a pool. Others He healed from a distance. Every case was different and every case merited special attention from the Master!

He may have saved you and me by the same blood and the same Gospel, but I guarantee you that He used different methods in each of our lives. I love that about God! You can't put Him in a box! He doesn't always work the same way! But, there is one constant that you can depend on: Jesus cares for you on a personal level. He will work in your life in a manner unique to you! You are special to Him and He will honor that special relationship in His dealings with you!

Jesus continues His special ministry in this man's life. He cannot tell the man verbally what He is about to do, so Jesus uses a rough form of sign language to communicate His intentions. First, He sticks His fingers in the man's ears to let him know that He is going to do something about his deafness. He spits to let the man know His intention was to heal, saliva was thought to have medicinal

properties. He touches the man's tongue to let him know that He is about to heal his speech.

Jesus is attempting to awaken faith in this man's heart. He is trying to get the man to understand that something is about to happen in his life and that Jesus is going to bring about the changes. Whatever the reason for His actions, Jesus reaches out and touches this man!

Praise the Lord for His touch! When we could not get to Him, He left Heaven and came into this world to die for our sins. We could not touch Him, but He came to our world, lived among us, died on the cross to save us, and He touched us! Glory to God! He didn't shy away from our defilement, but He took our sins upon Himself so that we might be saved, 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24. The redeemed are saved, and the lost can be saved, because Jesus was willing to touch us where we were, Ill. Job. 9:33.

By the way, if we are going to reach the lost for Jesus, we are going to have to go where they are. We are going to have to touch them where they live. We cannot isolate ourselves from them. We must not be partakers of their sins, but we must make the vital connection of touch if we would be effective for Jesus.

After touching him, Jesus looks toward Heaven. This act served two purposes. First, it told the deaf man where the healing was coming from. Jesus was looking to His Father and He was telling this man, via sign language, that his healing was coming from above.

This act of looking toward Heaven also demonstrated the Son's dependence upon the Father. Jesus often looked to Heaven for the help He needed. He did this at the tomb of Lazarus, John 11:41. Jesus lived a life of close communion and the Father used Him!

After looking toward Heaven, Jesus "sighed". This word means "to groan". The deaf man could not hear the sigh, but he could see Jesus when He did it and I imagine it spoke volumes to him. The sigh said "I care about you and what you are going through!"

I praise the Lord that we have a Savior Who cares! He is "**a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief**", Isa. 53:3. He is "**touched with the feeling of our infirmities**", Heb. 4:15. He cares about you and what you are facing in your life, 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 11:28. Regardless of what you are facing today, you will find help and hope in Him!

Did you notice that His sigh of compassion immediately follows a time of communion with His Father? The closer we live to the heart of God the more we can feel the heartache of our fellow man! The secret of compassion is a life of close communion with the heavenly Father! The closer our communion with Him the more effective our ministry to the world around us!

I pray the Lord will help us develop a heart of compassion that desires to alleviate the needs it sees. That is His will for us, Phil. 2:4; Rom. 12:15; James 2:8.

There's an old hymn that goes like this:

With a soul blood bought and a heart aglow.
Redeemed of the Lord and free,

I ask as I pass down the busy street,
Is it only a crowd I see;

Do I lift my eyes with a careless gaze,
That pieces no deep down woe,
Have I naught to give to the teeming throng
Of the wealth of the love I know?

Then the chorus says,

Let me look at the crowd as my Saviour did,
Till my eyes with tears grow dim,
Let me look till I pity the wandering sheep
And love them for love of Him.

Then, Jesus said one word, “**Ephphatha**”, which means “be opened”. When Jesus said this, the man’s ears were healed and his tongue was loosed. He could hear! He could speak! Oh, what a miracle! One command from Jesus and his life changed forever! That is the power of the Word of God!

I have seen spiritually deaf ears opened by the Word of God! I have seen spiritually blind eyes opened by the Word of God! I have seen spiritually dead people raised to life by the Word of God! I have seen lives changed by the power of the Word of God! That is what our Savior can do when He moves in power! He can do that for you today!

III. THE MULTITUDE AND THEIR CONFESSION v. 36-37

As soon as He has accomplished the miracle, Jesus tells the multitudes not to tell anyone else. He tells them to keep quiet. The tense of the phrase “**commanded them**” suggests that He kept on commanding them to keep the matter quiet. But, they did just the opposite. He told them to tell no one and they told everyone!

What a contrast that is with the way we sometimes are. He told them to tell no one and they told everyone. He commands us to tell everyone and we tell no one! Like those folks, every child of God should be in the publishing business. We should be spreading the news that Jesus is a life-changing, soul-saving Lord! That is His command, Mark 16:15. That is our obligation, Matt. 28:19-20. That is what He has equipped us to do, Acts 1:8.

Jesus did not tell us to witness just when we “feel led” to witness. He expects us to tell the world about Him. Get up and get at it, you’ve got a story to tell!

The Bible tells us that these people were “**astonished beyond measure**”. What they saw Jesus do was more than their minds could comprehend. It left them with their mouths hanging open in amazement. They summed up what they felt about Jesus by saying, “**He has done all things well!**”

I can echo the words of that multitude in my own heart today. He has done all things well! I can look back at the past and tell you that He has never failed me! Even when I was a lost, rebellious, sinner, He was patiently leading me along to that moment in time when He would save my soul. Praise His name! Since that day, He has been better to me than I deserve. He has blessed me, used me and let me see His power time and time again! He has done all things well!

As I stand here and look to the future, it gives me confidence to know that He will continue to do all things well. We may not understand all the twists and turns of the road of life. We may wonder why some of terrible events in life take place. We may wonder why people have to get sick and others have to die. We do wonder about many of those things. Right now, some of you have question marks as tall as mountains in your mind over certain events in your life. I can't tell you why life as gone like it has for you. I will venture to say that when you leave this world either by death or the rapture and you stand in His presence in Heaven, you will look back over the days of your life and you will say, "He hath done all things well!" And, when you stand before Him in glory, your voice will join the chorus of all the saints of the ages and together will praise Him for His grace and His goodness and we will shout, "Well done! Well done! Well done!" We will praise Him for His patient, loving, sovereign work in your life!)

And then the people also say this: **"He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."** That echoes the language of Isaiah 35. **"Say to those who are fearful-hearted, 'Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.."** (Isaiah 35:4-6) These were verses that were prophetic of the Messiah to come, and so in healing the deaf and the mute, Jesus was demonstrating that he was indeed the Messiah who had been sent into the world. Jesus is the Messiah; he is the Christ who does all things well.

The man in this text met Jesus that day and his life was never the same again. Meeting Jesus changed everything forever for this man. He can do the same thing for any person who will come to Him today! Why? He does all things well!

If there is a lost person here, let me speak to you for just a moment. If you will come to Jesus today, you will find that He does all things well. He can save your soul from sin and from Hell. He can change your life. He can give you eternal life. He does all things well. Come to Jesus and see for yourself.

Whatever your spiritual condition, whether you are saved or lost, Jesus can help you today! He can deliver you from addiction and lust. He does all things well. He can forgive your sins and help you to live a godly life. He does all things well. He can lift your burden and give you peace in your heart. He does all things well.

"All" is a mighty big word! It covers a lot of territory. He does all things well. Come to Him and let Him teach you that truth today! He can fix it so you leave here today saying, "Well done! Well done! Well done!"