

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 16, 2025

“Manifestations of Glory ~ Be Opened!”

Mark 7:31-37

Although the nation of Israel was still Jesus’ mission _____, His willingness to minister in this gentile area illustrates the fact that the Gospel was always intended to be preached throughout the _____.

marvelled = *thaumazo* =

The Jewish religious leaders who saw the same miracles _____ Jesus, and accused Him of operating by Satan’s power and not God’s, while these Gentiles recognized that His power came from God, and at least for the moment, turned from their idols and offered _____ to the God of Israel

Those suffering from this kind of physical impairment were _____ by society, often forced to live a life of isolation and poverty. Indeed, in first century Judaism, it was believed that such disabilities were the direct cause of sin and God’s _____.

JESUS’ RESPONSE

#1. Jesus shows _____.

“He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.” (Mark 7:33-35)

It also shows that Jesus wasn’t afraid of ceremonial _____. Rather than being corrupted by them, they were cleansed and _____ by Him.

In the midst of this pressing throng, with countless others waiting to be healed, Jesus gives His full attention to this one desperate man who’d most likely been ignored and _____ his entire life. However, in that moment, he received the total, undivided attention of the Creator Himself—he was _____!

JESUS’ 4 GESTURES OR NON-VERBALS

• He _____.

He used this symbolic gesture to demonstrate that He’d rightly _____ the medical issue.

• He _____.

Jesus used this gesture to communicate to the deaf man that He intended to _____ him.

• He _____.

In doing this, Jesus demonstrates that the creative _____ He exercised came from God.

• He _____.

Jesus was moved by the man’s condition, and in sighing, He communicated a sincere _____ for this man’s life-long suffering and agony.

The ravages of _____ in the lives of men and women always offended Jesus to His very core.

Humanity was made to reflect something of the _____ and glory of God, and Jesus is heart broken by this poor, wretched man who couldn’t hear or speak properly.

In using these four non-verbal signs to communicate with the deaf man, Jesus not only _____ into this man’s world, meeting him where he was at, but also taught him about God’s power and _____.

What have you carried into church with you this morning—your cares and concerns, your worries, fears, and frustrations—burdens that are too heavy for you to carry yourself?

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.” (Psalm 55:22)

#2. Jesus _____.

“...his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began to speak plainly.” (Mark 7:35)

impediment = *desmon* =

It was as if his speech had been bound and _____ in the dungeon of deafness. However, Jesus just said the word and immediately, he was set free and able to hear perfectly and speak plainly. His healing was _____ and complete.

The extent of this miracle went far beyond merely repairing his physical faculties. He was also given the ability of miraculous _____ acquisition.

plainly = *orthos* =

Like every miracle Jesus performed, this healing was an act of divine creative energy through His _____, the same way He made the universe in the beginning.

Where does Jesus need to say the word in your life? What burdens seem insurmountable to you? What areas of your heart, mind, or life still need to be set free?

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

#3. Jesus _____.

“Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’” (Mark 7:36-37)

No doubt the man’s reaction to his healing was one of exuberant _____, and so the natural response would have been to _____ everyone what had happened.

ordered = *diastellomai* =

In other words, Jesus didn’t just ask or suggest that the man be quiet, He _____ him

Jesus issues this command to be silent for two reasons.

- He didn’t want to indulge the fervour and _____ interest of the crowds, which would just hinder His ministry.
- It was an act of _____ on non-believers, by obscuring the truth.

“He warned them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priest and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.” (Mark 8:30-31)

- Knowing that His earthly mission would not be accomplished until his _____ had come, Jesus instructed even His own disciples to remain quiet until after the story was _____.

He’d come for a far more glorious purpose, and a message that highlighted only His miracles and healings would be _____.

“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3-4)

How obedient are you to what God has commanded you to do or not to do?

How willing are you to listen to Him?

“If you love me, obey my commandments.” (John 14:15)

CONCLUSION

mute = *mogilalos* =

“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.” (Isaiah 35:4-5)

Mark 7 is actually _____, a glimpse, telling us that Jesus came into the world in order to _____ that which has fallen; to restore the consequences of the fall; to make a _____ creation; and ultimately a new heaven and a new earth. To fulfill God’s ultimate plan of the _____ of the world.

By healing physical maladies, Jesus was pointing people to something greater: the hope of _____. Through Him, forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God are readily available to everyone who believes the gospel—whether Jew or Gentile.

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the glories about to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)

“And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God’s ways; fools will never walk there. Lions will not lurk along its course, nor any other ferocious beasts. There will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will walk on it. Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.” (Isa 35:8-10)

Can you hear the voice of Jesus saying to you, “Can you hear me now?”

What are your present sufferings?

What burdens have you brought with you into church this morning?

Do you see them in light of Paul’s words—in light of eternity.

Or have they blinded you to the hope and promises that God has given you in Christ?