

Sun night – 4-18-21 – coming in contact with Jesus

TI yesterday was such and encouragement

-special thanks to all of the YL's and coaches to help prepare the teens

Mk 7:31-37

Jesus is probably the most misunderstood person in the history of the world.

-sometimes He was bold, clear and cut straight to the point

-other times He spoke in mysterious ways that confounded people

-sometimes He spoke truth to point out hypocrisy

-other times He spoke with compassion to those with humility

-sometimes He lived in a patterned lifestyle with breaking of bread / going apart to pray

-other times He interacted with people in unusual and unpredictably ways

tonight we are going to look at one of the unusual ways Jesus performed a miracle

-this account is only found 1 time in the synoptic gospels and is only in the book of Mark

We are going to look at 3 things in this passage:

1. Those that brought a man to Jesus
2. What happens when we come in contact with Jesus
3. The reaction to those that have been with Jesus

1. Those that brought a man to Jesus

:32 – “they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech”

-people around us have needs (deaf, speech impediment)

-this man couldn't hear or speak clearly

-“they” – there was a group of people that believed Jesus was the answer to his needs

-they believed Jesus was the solution to his temporal and eternal needs

-do you believe in Jesus?

-Do you believe Jesus is the answer to your life's problems?

-Have you trusted in Jesus for eternal salvation?

-Do you trust Jesus in your day to day problems?

-we don't see miracles today like in Bible times because a new revelation from God is not being revealed.

-God always performs miracles to confirm the authenticity of His Word when it is spoken

-we have a "more sure word of prophecy" in our hands today with the completion of the Bible

-just because obvious miracles do not happen today doesn't mean God cannot miraculously work in our circumstances just like for Mordecai in the book of Esther

-notice "they" is plural

-it often takes the effort of many to reach 1

-reaching people for Christ often includes many others planting and watering seeds of truth in one's life as God brings the increase

-we don't need to be the only "hero" bringing people to Christ but we need to work together as a team to reach our community for Christ

-"they" is also anonymous

-the people that brought this man to Christ are all unnamed

-are you willing to serve the Lord and bring people to Jesus without receiving recognition?

-serving God is not for our glory but for God's glory

– who are you bringing to Jesus?

-who are you praying for and striving to bring to Jesus?

2. What happens when we come in contact with Jesus?

:33 – Jesus took him aside

-Jesus did not to embarrass him publicly

-personal 1 on 1 attention

-God individually deals with us with our specific needs

-unconventional method of healing (1st wet willy?)

-put fingers in ears, spit, touched tongue

-would have been humiliating or disgusting

-took humility and faith to follow through

:34 – Jesus looked up to heaven to pray and sighed

-Jesus still had a unique connection with God the Father

- Jesus was 100% God and 100% man
- Jesus' humanity shown weary of people's problems
- Jesus' deity shows His healing power
 - Ephphatha (E-fa-tha) – direct quote of the words of Christ that He spoke in Aramaic
 - means – “be opened”

:35 – immediately healed

- string of tongue loosed (no longer tongue tied)
- could speak plain and clearly
- able to hear again
- when someone comes to Jesus for salvation their life is changed
- old things are passed away, behold all things are become new

3. The reaction to those that have been with Jesus

:36 – a genuine conversion cannot be hid

:37 – “beyond measure astonished” – off the scale on how amazed they were

- “He hath done all things well”
 - God does everything with excellence
 - We should serve the Lord and live our lives with excellence
 - Don't do the bare minimum
- “deaf hear, dumb speak” – when saved, you can hear God's voice and share the plain message of salvation.
 - God enables the incapable
 - this man couldn't hear and couldn't speak clearly
 - He now could hear the words of Jesus
 - He could now share about what Jesus did in His life
 - you might feel like you are inadequately equipped to be used by God
 - you're right! But God can use you and work through you for His glory
 - the Christian life is not about what we do for God but what we let God do through us
 - don't rely on yourself but on the power of the Spirit in your life

-without Jesus we can do nothing but we
can do all things through Christ

Conclusion:

1. Do you need to come to Jesus tonight for salvation?
2. Who are you bringing to Jesus?
3. Has your life been changed since you've been with Jesus?
 - a. Jesus changes your heart to desire what He desires.
4. Have you been discouraged from serving God because you feel incapable?
 - a. God will equip you to serve His when you depend on Him
5. Have you been praising God with your life as you have seen Him working in your life?

Talk to the Lord in these closing moments with prayer.

Pray where you are. Come forward to pray alone or with someone.

Take this time to let God's Spirit speak to you upon the reflection of God's Word.

If the Spirit prompts you to make a decision, please respond as He leads.