



The Mercy of Jesus Pt 2: And He Healed Them!

April 18, 2021

Text: Matthew 15:29-31

- Last week, we looked at the astonishing faith of the Canaanite woman and how she persevered before our LORD and His disciples. If you missed it, please watch and maybe distribute. It might encourage you those you love!
- Today, let us consider again the mercy of our LORD on the multitudes.
- What is mercy? From the Webster 1828:
 1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant.
 2. An act or exercise of mercy or favor. It is a mercy that they escaped.
 3. Pity; compassion manifested towards a person in distress.
 4. The act of sparing, or the forbearance of a violent act expected. The prisoner cried for mercy. To be or to lie at the mercy of, to have no means of self-defense, but to be dependent for safety on the mercy or compassion of another, or in the power of that which is irresistible; as, to be at the mercy of a foe, or of the waves.
- *Grace is when God gives us what we do NOT deserve; mercy is when God does not give us what we DO deserve!*
- One of the things we saw last week was the humility of the Canaanite woman...her willingness to worship and bow down, to admit that she did not deserve the mercies of Jesus. She confessed she was nothing...yes, just a dog.
- Beloved, we also do not deserve God's mercy. In general, as sinful humans, we have rebelled continuously. We are arrogant and prideful. We prefer our own way. Are hearts imagine evil continually.
- We deserve punishment. We deserve chastisement. We deserve fire and brimstone and the gnashing of teeth.
- But Jesus!

Our Text:

Just a few simple thoughts:

1. "Great multitudes." (v30) There are still many millions of people that need Jesus.
 - This narrative should remind us this spiritual reality. Right now, "great multitudes" are lost.
 - Literally, all around us people are trapped in spiritual ailments that only Christ can heal.

Matthew 9:35-38 (KJV) *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.***

- The rise and celebration of unbiblical worldviews and ideologies and the decline of values commensurate with Scripture underscores this reality. Literally millions of people are loudly and proudly trumpeting their love of their sin.
 - Multiple tens of thousands of people die every day. So many without Christ.
2. “Lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others.” (v30) The multitudes are in terrible condition.
 - The Holy Text describes physical infirmities. Multitudes of people could not walk or see... could not speak or had been injured. Some ailments aren’t even mentioned specifically.
 - But if we think spiritually, many are in worse condition: unbelief, false belief, pain from tragedy, disappointments, rebellions, demonic deceptions, and “other things!”
 - Remember our LORD’s reason for parables?
 - **Matthew 13:13-15 (KJV)** *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*
 3. “And cast them down at Jesus’ feet.” (v30) Humility is required to come to and bow before Jesus.
 - Those who were brought to Jesus were “cast” at His feet. Although this is an expression that means they were put in the LORD’s presence, the expression implies an important point: humility is needed. To be brought to Jesus was to acknowledge His power and the their lack thereof.
 - Like the Canaanite woman who worshipped Jesus and fell down before Him, true healing requires a willingness to “bow down.”
 - For the true seeker, this indicates a change within the heart. It says, “God I need You. I cannot heal myself. Please Master, heal me.”
 4. “And He healed them.” Our LORD is Merciful!
 - Hallelujah! What mercy!
 - Aren’t you glad God is merciful?

Psalms 103:8-11 (KJV) *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

Psalms 116:1-5 (KJV) *I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. 3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.*

Psalms 119:156 (KJV) *Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.*

Isaiah 63:7-9 (KJV) *I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses. 8 For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.*

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV) *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Ephesians 2:1-10 (KJV) *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

5. "The multitude wondered and worshiped." We should still be amazed at the mercy of Jesus and glorify God!
 - May we NEVER forget God's mercy and compassion toward us. May we always be filled with wonder and awe!
 - As the songwriter said, "Great is Your mercy towards me, Your love and kindness towards me, Your tender mercy, I see, Day after day. Forever faithful towards me, And You're always providing for me, Great is Your mercy towards me, Great is Your grace.
 - **Psalms 86:12-13 (KJV)** *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. 13 For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*
 - Glory to God!

Some thoughts on Mark's version:

Mark 7:31-37 (KJV) *And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. 32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. 33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him,*

Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. 35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. 36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; 37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Our LORD cares about the multitude; He also cares about the individual! Just as He cared about this specific “deaf and dumb” man, cares about you!

From Matthew, we know that there was a large crowd. Somehow, in the midst of the chaos, our LORD saw fit to spend time caring for his poor fellow. A few things to learn from here:

1. This man had people who cared about him. They brought him to Jesus.(v32)
 - Let us do the same! Let us “bring” others to Jesus!
 - Practically, this might include visiting, inviting, serving, and praying.
 - It will certainly mean being mindful of self-focus.

2. They were willing to beg on the man’s behalf.
 - The NLT uses the word *beg*.
 - To beseech is to implore, to entreat, to pray with urgency.
 - Is this our testimony for those who “cannot hear” and “cannot speak?” Thinking spiritually, those who cannot hear the call of our God in Christ, cannot speak coherently. It’s just noise!

3. Jesus took him aside privately. He took the time to minister to him directly. (v33) What can we learn? From the Biblical Illustrator:
 - “To avoid vain glory in all our works of mercy to others.
 - That the penitent must separate himself from the crowd of worldly cares, tumultuous thoughts, and inordinate affections, if he would find rest for his soul in God.
 - That he must tear himself from the company of evil and frivolous companions, and from the bustle of incessant occupation.
 - That Christ alone can heal the soul. He took from the deaf and dumb man any trust that he might have had in those who stood by.
 - He leaves also this lesson to His ministers, that if they would heal the sinner by their reproof, they should do this when he is alone.”

4. He got his hands dirty, literally, in the man’s life; Jesus actions are both spiritual and practical. (v33)
 - John Gill said, “These actions were not done as means of healing, or as having any natural virtue, or tendency in them, to effect a cure; but to show the power of Christ, that by the mere touch of his finger, and by the spittle of his mouth, as well as by laying on of hands, as was desired, and by a word speaking, he could at once remove this, or any such disorder.”
 - I agree. However let us be mindful that sometimes we must use our hands and well as our prayers in our ministry to others.

5. He sighed. (v34) What can we learn here? Again from the Biblical Illustrator, we can learn:
 - “Sympathy for the afflicted. The incarnation brings the heart of Jesus close to our own, and we know that He feels for our sorrows.

- Grief at the effects of sin. Man, made in God's image, had become through sin the poor dumb creature on which Christ looked. The thought of Eden with its sinless inhabitants, and the sad contrast presented by the sight before Him, made Jesus sigh.
- Apprehension for the future. What use would the man make of his restored faculties? Hitherto he had been unable to let any corrupt communication proceed out of his mouth, and his ears had been sealed to the cruel, false, impure words of the world. What evil he might now do with his tongue; what poisonous words might now enter into his ears."

6. He looked up to heaven. (V34)

- Our Savior desired to give all glory to the Father. It was from heaven where He drew His earthy strength. This was His consistent testimony:

"The Son can do nothing of Himself" (John 5: 19).

"I can of My own self do nothing; My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will" (John 5:30).

"I receive not glory from men" (John 5: 41).

"I am come not to do My own will" (John 6:38).

"My teaching is not Mine" (John 7:16)

"I am not come of Myself" (John 7:28)

"I do nothing of Myself" (John 8:28)

"I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me" (John 8: 42).

"I seek not My own glory" (John 8:50)

"The words that I say, I speak not from Myself" (John 14: 10).

"The word which you hear is not Mine" (John 14: 24)

- May every action we take in His service give glory to God alone!

7. He commanded the healing. (V34)

- Only in the power of Jesus can ears "be opened."
- Let us pray our LORD will call those around and that they would hear with open hearts, eyes, and ears.
- Oh LORD, please declare "Ephphatha" over our children, our families, our communities, and our church! "Be opened!"

A Prayer:

Great God, we need Thee. Only you can open ears, hearts, and minds. We are lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and "other!" We are confused. We are lost. Only You can heal us!

Please LORD, heal us. We admit our sinfulness and wickedness. We are a large multitude with a multitude of needs. We need You to inform our minds, convict our hearts, and save our souls.

Help us oh LORD. In Thy Great Name,
Amen.