



Speaker:
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Jesus has Done All Things Well

◀ Series: The Gospel of Mark • 25 of 25

11/7/2020 (SAT) | Bible: **Mark 7:31-37**

This week, our message is from the Gospel According to Mark, chapter 7, and verses 31 to 37.

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At this point in his journeys, Jesus is once again found healing people of physical and mental conditions. The people here bring along their friend. He's suffering from deafness and muteness. And we see that Jesus escorts him away from the crowds in order to perform this healing. Jesus heals the man, and does so in a slightly strange way.

As I read this passage, the most striking part was not the healing itself. What hit me was the confession of the people, who said *Jesus does all things well*. So as we examine this passage together, my aim is to lift up the name of Jesus Christ. I want to present him to you today as indeed the one who does all things well.

It would be easy to skip over this account. We've already been shown examples of the Christ's healing powers. He's even raised a young girl from the dead. So you might be tempted to think, *That's nice. He's so kind, helping this man. Let's move on...*

The reason we're stopping and observing the events in this passage today are several. Remember, this isn't just any old historical record. The real value of this account by Mark is to do with its **inspiration**. Ultimately, it was **God** who decided that this individual healing should be mentioned. And I'm glad because it gives us an opportunity to learn more about Jesus Christ. The account gives us a backdrop which we'll use in our consideration of Jesus as the one who does all things well.

Let's not forget too the perspective of the healed man himself. He lived in a world of silence. He was unable to express his thoughts through normal speech. This healing would have been the single biggest event of his whole life. And if you can place yourself in his shoes for a moment as one so restricted in his life, perhaps you can also imagine the joy Jesus brought in opening up a whole new world for the man.

Today, I've purposed to consider how Jesus did well in opening our ears and our mouths.

1. He did well in opening our ears

The most obvious question that comes to our minds first is, "Were we deaf?" You'll have realised we're not talking today about a literal deafness. As far as I'm aware, each one of us

was born with the ability to hear things. We could hear our parents talk to us. We were able to hear the blackbirds sing each evening. We could listen to music.

But as children of Adam, **each one of us was born with an utter inability to hear the gospel properly.** It will be harder for you to appreciate this if you were brought up in a Christian home, but it still applies to you. Have a look at Jeremiah 6:10, "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it."

To be clear: unregenerate men **can** hear the gospel being preached. They can hear the words. They could likely even define each of the words they heard. But they don't understand the gospel *properly*. When the gospel is being used to awaken a sinner, it's heard audibly as it is for everyone else. But the Holy Spirit causes it to affect a man's heart *as well* as his head. He's reached at an *emotional* as well as an intellectual level. But even that doesn't fully explain how the gospel is received by the one who God has determined to save. It's a thoroughly spiritual work, which is why the Holy Spirit is employed for the task.

You don't have to be a Christian for long to see there's something seriously messed up in the souls of men. As far as their intellect allows, you can explain all manner of facts and mysteries to them and witness their understanding. They could go to college or university and be involved in advanced learning. Yet when you explain the gospel message in the simplest terms possible, you see confusion. They may understand bits and pieces of your presentation, but it's hazy. It doesn't seem to make sense to them. God, then, describes their ears as "uncircumcised", making it impossible for them to hear properly.

But God didn't leave mankind in a state of deafness. From time to time, here and there, he heals people of their deafness. Sometimes, Jesus in his healing role visits a Christian home and opens the ears of child. Sometimes, Jesus intercepts a man like me who came from a family that had no believers in it. And when he did this to each of us we were changed. The Bible started making more sense. We suddenly understood the gospel, albeit not perfectly. We felt that business of Calvary had something to do with us. And this was to be the means God would use to bring us to trust in his dear son, Jesus. Isaiah 29:18 says, "And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book..."

We hear the words that book, properly. *Savingly*. Faith, remember, comes through hearing, and what we hear comes from God's book, the Bible. Whether we were saved through reading the scriptures ourselves or hearing the gospel preached by another, the words of life came from God's beautiful book. Let's look at what else he did for us.

2. He did well in opening our mouths

In a similar vein, we can say there was a time when we were dumb. We could always speak, sure. We learnt how to engage in a conversation with our parents as we grew up. We could tell others about our admiration for those singing birds. And when we heard music, we were able to sing along to it.

But having been conceived in sin, **we came into this world unable to communicate with God**. We could talk about him, both positively and negatively, although our opinions were distorted. What's more, we could address God directly. Most people who've lived have at some point prayed to God—or rather, they've spoken BELIEVING they were talking to God.

The children of this world cannot speak the language of Zion. They can approach the throne of God, as they think, but their speech is foreign. Yes, we know technically God understands every word they say, but he refuses to listen. While they continue to come to him speaking nonsense, they'll not be granted a proper audience with him. They barge into his throne room without any warrant from him, and then have the audacity to complain when their prayers are not heard.

Their speech is unacceptable to God, and it's in *this* sense we say mankind is dumb. The only prayer God takes any interest in is the one that comes from the mouth of a regenerate man or woman. These are people who have realised they're people of unclean lips. They've been saved by the blood of Christ himself. And the Holy Spirit has cleansed their unclean mouths and taught them a new language.

Not only have we now been given access to the throne of grace, but we know *how to address* God. We speak his language. That is, we come acknowledging his greatness. We freely confess our daily transgressions. And our praise of him, no matter how inadequate it is, is pleasant to him. Psalm 40:3 tells us, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God..."

- We pray directly to him
- We sing songs about him
- We encourage others in him
- We talk of doctrine concerning him
- And we tell others about his saving purpose through Jesus Christ.

In opening our ears to the gospel, and in loosening our tongues so we can praise him and testify of his saving love, Jesus has done all things well.

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There are, in this passage, indications of a fulfilled prophecy for those who care to look for them; in particular, this one from Isaiah 35: "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; 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 shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water..."

Jesus had ventured into Gentile regions. And this healing was one of many that would show a change that was taking place in the administration of God. Most of the vivid imagery and prophecy we read in the scriptures refers not to eternal paradise but the ushering in of a

new age that started with the advent of Jesus. We saw it referenced in Revelation over and over again. The message of the kingdom was to break out all over the world. No longer to be restricted to a certain race or a certain place, it was to be broadcast to every corner of the globe. Almost the entire Israel of God was to be comprised of those who were not flesh and blood Israelites. In the fulfilment of the prophecy:

- The blind have had their sight restored and seen the kingdom of God
- The deaf have had their ears opened and heard the voice of God
- The lame have been given strength and walked in the ways of God
- The dumb have had their tongues loosened and used them to call out to God
- And the parched wilderness of this world has been flooded with the living water of God.

Jesus, truly, has done all things well.

As the people make this confession about Jesus Christ, you may find yourself reminded of the creation account. As an agent of the trinity, the Son of God brought the world into being. The galaxies, the trillions of stars belonging to them, and our very own solar system—all created by him. And as the Son crafted our very special planet, there was this constant affirmation from God that everything was good. God himself was saying Jesus has done all things well.

It's fair to say this healed man was like a new creation. He felt like a new man, and his new God-given abilities would affect everyone around him.

This was a most unusual healing. It involved visual elements not recorded anywhere else in the gospels. I have looked for a deeper meaning that was meant to be conveyed through these actions of Jesus. What does spitting represent? How else does Jesus use his hands when healing? And after asking many such questions, my conclusion was simply that Jesus's actions were **theatrics**. The man was deaf, so Jesus visualized for him what he was about to do.

- He put his fingers in the man's ears to show he was going to open them
- He spit on his own finger and touched the man's tongue to show how he was going to "lubricate" the man's tongue
- He looked up to heaven to acknowledge the Father as the source of his authority and power
- And with a sigh he commanded the man's faculties be fixed.

We should also take from this interesting story something about how God saves people from their sin. The details of this healing were recorded for us and for the generations before and after us. But the healing itself was for that man in particular. So what it tells us is *God saves in whatever way pleases him*.

Among other things, Jesus's behaviour was an act of kindness towards the man. He spoke to the man in that man's own language. He was deaf, so his language was nothing more than a primitive sign language.

And Jesus came to each one of us in a similar way. We are all saved by **one saviour**. We are all born again by **one Spirit**. But the way in which we were brought to faith in Jesus is unique to each one of us. Jesus speaks to us in, as it were, our own language. The voice that urged us to come to him reached us in a very specific way. It's an attitude of kindness and a display of sovereignty. Exodus 4:11 says, "And the LORD said unto him, 'Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the LORD?'" God not only sends and removes various disabilities and ailments, but he's also sovereign in his choice of which individuals he will grant spiritual healing to.

God's ways are not our ways. He saves whoever he's pleased to, and he saves in whatever way he's pleased to.

What's a blessed Saviour we have! We've considered how, enlightening us, he **has done** all things well. And we've seen how, in our new relationship with him, he **does** all things well. But there's more. The Bible promises us a future where Jesus **will** do all things well.

We must all taste death. We must all go where Christ went. Except where he escaped the corruption of death, we must go back to the dust where we came from. But the Christian has a hope of resurrection from the dead. John 5:28–29 blesses us with these words, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

The effectual voice that woke you from your spiritual slumber in this life will be heard by all those of Christ's that lie in the grave. And on one glorious day we shall all awake and, with Job, get to see our saviour face to face—in the flesh.

In his creation, in His purpose of salvation, in his regenerating of his elect, in his constant care for them, and then in the wondrous provision he's made for them in the future,

- Jesus *has* done all things well
- *Is doing* all things well
- And *will forever* do all things well.

Hallelujah—what a saviour.

Amen.