Double Handicap

I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Night of Fellowship: Storm Stadium. July 12th. Chris is selling tickets info booth, $6.
   B. Slide#3 Married Couples Retreat: Sept.6-8th, Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort.

II. Slide#4 Intro:
   A. An elderly woman by the name of Mary made frequent trips to the branch post office.
      One day she faced a long line of people who were waiting for service from the postal clerks.
      Mary only needed stamps, so a helpful observer asked, “Why don’t you use the stamp machine?
      You can get all the stamps you need and you won’t have to stand in line.” Mary said,
      “I know, but the machine can’t ask me about my arthritis.” :)
      1. People still need human contact. A word of encouragement. A scripture promise.
         Reassurance. Hope. A touch.
         a) Let’s observe Jesus & His interaction with a Double Handicap.

III. DOUBLE HANDICAP (7:31-37)
   A. Slide#5 Now they travel again, completing a clockwise circular journey.
      1. From Capernaum, 40m N to Tyre; 20m N to Sidon; S/E to the Decapolis.
         a) The Decapolis, a Rome away from Rome. And although in Gentile territory most of the 10
            cities had a large Jewish community.
      2. Jesus is taking the long way home - probably took 8 months. Using this time to train
         His disciples. A kind of walking seminar.
   B. This story is only found in Marks account.
   C. Do you think the man in ch.5:19,20 did his job? (read)
   D. This man was both deaf & he had a severe speech impediment.
      1. Slide#6a The Greek word Mogilalon (mogy-la-lone) means speaking w/difficulty.
      2. Mark uses an unusual word to describe this man’s condition. It is only used here &
         in the LXX in Is.35:6 which seems to be an illusion to this promise.
         a) Slide#6b 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.
            (LXX stammerers sing)
      3. Slide#7 He wasn’t completely w/o speech, but he could not communicate clearly.
   E. When an outstanding football player comes to town, the athletes & sports enthusiasts get excited.
      When an outstanding musician comes to town, the musicians get excited.
      When Jesus came to town, the blind, the deaf, & the lame got excited.
1. If you want to be like Jesus, make sure you spend time with people who are physically or spiritually handicapped. That's always where Jesus was.
   a) I thank our Children’s Church staff for seeing the importance of Special Needs classes. FYI - There are 2, during 2nd service. 1 for children, 1 for youth & adults.
   b) I thank Teri Schroeder, Christianne & Caitlynn for serving in those classes.

2. Modern medicine/science is making a lot of progress in helping people who have different handicaps/disabilities. The ability to hear with hearing aids. See with glasses.

F. Modern medicine/science is making a lot of progress in helping people who have different handicaps/disabilities. The ability to hear with hearing aids. See with glasses.

1. Slide#8 In the last olympics we were impressed to watch Oscar Pistorius, the South African sprinter, because of the invention of the Cheetahs, the blade running biomechanics.
2. It seems the medical community is finally catching up with Jesus in what He did 2000 yrs ago. :)

G. Slide#9 Here’s what I was fascinated with…HOW Jesus deals with this man.

1. Jesus shows us here...each person is special & deserves a unique approach. :) 
   a) Difficult for you & I who have grown up to deal with numbers, groups, races, stereotypes
   b) We classify people into groups. Jesus saw each person as an individual.
2. Jesus begins to speak to him in a language that this deaf man could “hear”.
   a) Jesus uses sign language & symbolic acts.
3. At 1st His actions seem almost disgusting(spittle) – but in fact it was Jesus’ beautiful way of entering this man’s world.
4. He recognizes this deaf culture & communicates to him in a kind of sign language.
   a) Slide#10,11 You’ve heard of ASL – This is SSL (Savior Sign Language)
5. Slide#12 Let me speak a word on Contextualization.
   a) Con(together) + Texere(to weave) [weave together or Join by Weaving]
   b) The Gospel never changes, yet it must be contextualized (or fitted/joined) to the culture, or to the individual that it is brought to.
   c) How can you contextualize the gospel into the culture of our day?
   d) How can you contextualize the gospel into someone you are witnessing to? (or desire to)
   e) How can you contextualize the gospel into each of your children today?
      1) Let’s watch how Jesus does exactly that with this man.

H. Slide#13a Every touch & gesture has meaning: (I found 6)

1. The contact of connection - He took him aside – maybe to give him the quiet careful attention he needed...away from the crowd.
   a) Wow, the undivided attention of deity.
b) If you want to help people, touch them in their need. Get right down where they live.

c) Shun your shelter mentality. Flee your fortress mentality. Yes we must be insulated as Christians, but not isolated. Insulation then infiltration.

d) Remember what C.T. Studd said, "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."

2. Slide#13b The touch of wellness - He put His fingers in his ears – showing him what he was going to heal.
   a) Many don’t know Jesus invented the famed Wet-Willy.

3. Slide#13c The contact of the curative - He touched his tongue – again showing him what he was going to heal. (saliva was connected with healing in that day)

4. Slide#13d The look of communion - He looked up to heaven – to demonstrate where the healing is coming from. Prayer of dependence.
   a) Just like He did before He raised Lazarus. He lifted His eyes towards heaven. Jn.11:41

5. Slide#13e The groan of emotion - He sighed – identifying with the man w/this inward groan, a compassionate response to his pain & sorrow.
   a) Jesus’ deep sigh brings healing balm, for it is the breath of compassion.
   b) The sigh of compassion came right after...the look of communion.
      (1) i.e. The closer we get to God the more aware we are of the needs of hurting people.

6. Slide#13f The word of consummation/complete - He spoke – commanding the healing.
   a) Ephphatha (e-fa-THA’) – Aramaic word meaning, be opened completely.
      (1) Ephphatha is easily lip-read by a deaf person.
   b) Ephphatha was the first sound to penetrate the man’s ears in years.
   c) Slide#14blank He could now hear & speak plainly. And it was all because of Jesus.

1. Donald Grey Barnhouse (Presb minister) in a radio sermon once asked this question: What would Philadelphia look like if Satan took over? Then he conjectured...If Satan took over Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed; pornography banished; and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say, yes sir and no ma’am. & the churches would be full every Sunday where Christ is not preached.

1. Here’s what's scary, most people would be satisfied if our city and our lives and our churches looked just like that.
   a) Jesus or no Jesus, we just want to be safe.
   b) Jesus or no Jesus, we just want our kids to turn out okay.
   c) Jesus or no Jesus, we just want our marriage is to be easy.
   d) Jesus or no Jesus, we just want to pay our bills.
(1) No, we need Jesus. The One who can bring the dead to life. It is only He who can heal our brokenness.

   (a) Meaning, Jesus touches people directly in their need, in their brokenness.
   (b) Jesus fixes people where they are broken. Where are you broken?
   (c) Jesus opens people where they are closed. Where are you closed?
   (d) Jesus unclogs people who are jammed up. Where are you clogged?

(3) Because, that’s what the Gospel is all about.
   (a) Slide#15a Many still think Church is all about, A good person, telling other good people, how to be a better people. That’s not what the bible teaches.
   (b) Slide#15b Christianity is not turning over a new leaf; it’s receiving a new life. Christianity is not you must do; it’s Jesus already did.

J. Slide#16 Tell no one – He didn’t want people to follow to him cuz he was a miracle worker/healer.
   1. This man must have found the injunction harder to obey than most.[I need to tell someone]

K. Slide#17 (37) One man does one thing well; another does another thing well; but Jesus does ALL things well. - Here is a biography of Jesus in miniature.
   1. 6 words that can carry us into the uncertain days ahead. He has done all things well.

L. Slide#18 I believe that all of these miracles in the physical realm are illustrations of what Jesus can do in the spiritual realm.
   1. You know one of these days all of these limitations are going to be removed.
   2. We even note that it will be before heaven...it will be during the Millennial reign of Christ on earth (see Is.35:1-6) All physical handicaps will be corrected.
   3. The blind will see. The deaf will hear. Those missing legs will be running, skipping, & jumping. Those confined to a wheelchair will be the ones jumping rope.
   4. If you have spiritual blindness, would you like to see the things of God? If you have spiritual deafness, would you like to hear/understand the Word of God? If you have spiritual lameness, would you like to walk with God?
      a) To die in that condition is to be a spiritually handicapped person...for eternity.

M. Slide#19 Before the Lord can use us He must...call us aside from this busy & distracting world; Then He must touch are ears to give us ears to hear Him; then & only then can He loose our tongues that we might speak His Praises & tell others about Him.
   1. Maybe this morning He’s calling you aside. [The undivided attention of deity]
2. Know this morning, God is not mad at you; but know, He misses you.
   a) Slide#20,21 In the most significant work in religious English literature, Pilgrims Progress, the man Christian progressed, but not by always making the right decision, but by responding appropriately to wrong ones.

3. I will give you the opportunity to respond this morning before communion...

IV. Communion

A. Do you notice with communion Jesus was saying, celebrate My brokenness.
   2. He could have reminded us to remember His resurrection.
      He could have reminded us to honor his miracles.
   3. Instead, He reminds us to celebrate, remember, meditate on...His brokenness.

B. Bread - Lord forgive us for our: spiritual blindness; spiritual deafness; spiritual lameness; spiritual brokenness; the things in this world that have clogged us spiritually;

C. Cup - Lord Thank You for: calling us aside; touching our ears; opening our blind eyes; losing our tongues that we might speak Your praises. Calling us to follow You, when we were lost. Jesus, You have done ALL things well!