

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.
- 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.**
- l. **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**.
- (2) **See**, Jesus speaks **deaf**. Jesus speaks **mute**. Jesus speaks **alcoholic**. Jesus speaks **pot**. Jesus speaks **homosexuality**. Jesus speaks **adulterer**. Jesus speaks **liar**. Jesus speaks **porn addiction**. Jesus speaks **pride**.
 - (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 our 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*.
 1. Celebrate My **body** broken for you. Celebrate My **blood** spilt for you.
 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!