

His Touch, His Title, His Target

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Israel Info Mtg - Next Sun 1:30pm. No need to come if you were at the 1st.
- B. Slide#3 Marriage Retreat: *Hyatt Regency Indians Wells Resort & Spa* \$400. Sign up online or at info booth in 2 weeks.
- C. Slide#4 Father/Son Adventure:
- D. Slide#5 Pray for Diamond, CCCambo: (17) has EB, *EpidermMOLysis Bullosa*. In constant pain, not walking. [epitome of joy/worship]
- E. Slide#6,7 Father's Day: Dad? - we have adoptive dads(non-biological kids), divorced dad, non-custodial dad(live away dads), the at home dad, single dad, special needs dad, step dad, *traditional* dad, traveling dad(dads on the road), urban dad, & now Duck Dynasty dad.
 - 1. Fathers Day - a day to **celebrate Fatherhood**. - What is Fatherhood?
 - 2. If we think of the Fatherhood of God, we get a picture of someone who is **strong & loving &** who **sacrifices** himself for those he loves. That's a picture of **Real Fatherhood & Real Manhood**.
 - a) **Fatherhood/Masculinity** is how to be a **heroic & brave man**, **and** who knows the *difference* of what it is to be a **coward** or a **bully**.
 - b) **Masculinity** has nothing to do with being a **macho loud mouth bully** or being an **emasculated pseudo-man**.
 - c) **Fatherhood/Masculinity** is one who **uses his strength to protect others**.
 - d) C.S.Lewis did an essay called, "Men w/o Chests." Men should have a **chest &** a **heart**.
 - e) **Fatherhood/Masculinity** is **having the courage to do the right thing when all else tells you not to do it**. [7 Men & the secret of their greatness, Eric Metaxis]

II. Slide#8 Intro:

- A. Outline: *His TOUCH; His TITLE; His TARGET*.
 - 1. Have you experienced Jesus Touch? Do you know His Title? What was His Target?

III. Slide#9 HIS TOUCH (22-26)

- A. This is only recorded by Mark.
 - 1. And the only miracle that **took place in stages**.
 - 2. About 2 ½ yrs have passed since the disciples began their journey.
- B. (22) **Bethsaida** – on the very top of the Sea of Galilee, on the east side of the Jordan river right before it spills into Galilee.
- C. (23) **He took the blind man by the hand** – I love that.
- D. **Led him out of town** – Why? **Bethsaida** was under judgment.

1. Mt.11:21 **Woe to you, Bethsaida!** For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
 2. So Jesus took the man out of there & told him **not to go back**(26). [he wasn't from there]
- E. **Slide#10 Why in 2 stages?**
1. 1st, we know Jesus could have healed this man instantly.
 2. **It seems reasonable that the limitation was on the side of the human, not the divine.**
 3. Alexander Maclaren speaks of Christ “**accommodating the pace of his power to the slowness of the man’s faith.**”
 4. Or perhaps it was the atmosphere in Bethsaida that hindered him.
 - a) Remember His problem in Nazareth. **see Mark 6:5,6**
 5. **All I know is...** There are many times I need **a 2nd touch**.
 - a) Praise God for His 2nd, 3rd, & 4th touch upon our lives.
 - b) **How many things weren’t clear to me, the 1st I heard of them?**
- F. **In another account it says he broke into song, singing... :)**
I can see clearly now, the rain is gone, I can see all obstacles in my way. Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind. It’s gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) Sun-Shiny day.

IV. **Slide#11 HIS TITLE (27-30)**

- A. (27) Now they walk **25 miles north** to one of my favorite places in northern Israel.
1. **Slide#12 Caesarea Philippi** - (Beautiful) - It is at the headwaters of the Jordan.
 2. **Slide#13 Strange place to reveal Himself though?** - Originally known as a center for **Baal worship**. Also it was the site of a great temple to the **Greek god, Pan**.
 - a) Called Banias from **Paneas**. OT area was called Laish, or Dan.
 3. **Normally** disciples would ask their rabbi the questions, **but Jesus reverses the process**. [looking around at these grotto’s/niches, **who do you say I am?**]
- B. **Slide#14 (28) John?** (Herod thought this); **Elijah?** (They were waiting his return according to Malachi); **Prophets?** (maybe he’s just another prophet?)
1. All would agree He was **special**.
 2. **He has his place among the greatest men**. (He always makes the Top 100 influential men in history lists)
 - a) **But** this is **inadequate** for Jesus...He is **not just one of a series**.
 - b) **He stands alone, unprecedented, unparalleled, unrivaled, unique**.
 3. **Slide#15** The spot light turns to them...**what do you think?**

- a) Feel the burn of that *spot light* today folks, **because** He still asks everyone that same question.
 - b) The prize for the right answer is...**Eternal Life**.
 - c) **Slide#16** Who do **you** say that He is? *Welcome to the fork in the road...everyone finds it!*
 - (1) Was Jesus just a **Legend?** - A **Liar**, for claiming to be God? A **Lunatic**, crazy & not knowing what He was doing? - **Or, Lord?**
- C. **Slide#17** (29) What a moment of revelation...**You are the Christ**.
- 1. Matthew adds, **Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** Mt.16:19
 - 2. **Christ** isn't Jesus' last name. **Nor a cuss word**.
 - 3. **Jesus** is His **name** (Jehovah is salvation); & **Christ** is His **title**, meaning "*anointed one*". [Heb. Messiah]
 - a) Jesus seemed to be very reluctant to use **this title** of Messiah/Christ (**only 3 times in the sayings of Jesus**), probably because of all of its **current misconceptions**.
 - 4. The confession of **Jesus as the Messiah** marks the **midpoint** of this **gospel** & the **turning point** in Jesus **ministry**.

V. **Slide#18 HIS TARGET (31-33)**

- A. **Began to teach** – He makes a departure here in His teaching.
- 1. Now that He is **recognized**, He immediately begins **His journey to the cross**.
 - a) You might make a mark in your bible, as I did mine, as there's an **important division** here.
 - b) **Between vs.30/31**. Up to this point the focus was on Jesus as **Servant**, **from now on** it's Jesus as **Sacrifice**.
 - c) **Slide#19,20 Looking back** - there was crowds, preaching, and popular ministry; **Looking ahead** - the crowds slip away, the skies darken, & all roads lead to Jerusalem.¹
 - 2. **He starts His death March!**
- B. (31) **1st of 3 announcements that Jesus made of his death & Res.**
- 1. Jesus stretched out his arms & said, **"I love you this much" & "I'd rather die than live w/o you."**
 - 2. **Elders** (gen. name for the members of the Sanhedrin); **chief priests** (Sadducees); & **scribes** (mainly Pharisees) = **the Sanhedrin**.
 - a) And they would **reject him** like **a counterfeit coin**.
- C. (32) The **Blind man** went from having a **blurred vision**, to seeing **clearly**; **but Peter** went from **clear**, back to **fuzzy**. [can you relate?]
- 1. **This was a nonsensical revelation at the time.**

¹ David Hewitt, Mark, pg.118

2. **1 minute**, inspired from **heaven**, **next minute** his inspiration is from **hell**.
 - a) **1st** he stood on the **top rung of a ladder** that reached into the heavens;
 Then he **dives off an Acapulco cliff**...only to **belly flop** in front of all the onlookers.
 - b) **One minute** he was Peter the **rock**; **then** Peter the **boat anchor**.
 3. Peter saw only **shame in the cross**, **Jesus saw glory**.
 Peter saw **defeat**, **Jesus saw victory**.
 4. This kind of belief encouraged **political revolution** rather than **spiritual revival**.
 - a) **He had to warn them**...He was **going to Jerusalem** not to **reign**...but to **die**.
- D. **Slide#21,22 (33) Get behind me Satan** – Ouch, that kinda stings.
1. **He looked at his disciples** (His back to Peter) – **because they agreed w/Peter’s assessment of the situation**. [Peter was spokesman]
 2. Peter had become the unwitting carrier of **demonic doctrine**, **parallel to** that which Christ faced in the wilderness when **Satan** tempted Him to **abandon the Father’s will & seek an easy Saviorhood**.
 - a) Satan was in Peter’s voice.
 3. **Jesus wasn’t calling Peter the devil**. **But**, He saw in Peter’s mistaken concern the **same temptation** to **avoid suffering** & choose **the easy way**.
 4. **So, why such strong language?** - **As it gets closer to the cross He couldn’t have any tolerance** toward this temptation.
 - a) Peter does **learn this lesson** though, he writes much about suffering/sacrifice in 1st Pet.
 - (1) **Soul-saving salvation** could only come through a **suffering** Messiah.
 There was **no other way**.
- E. **This is why I believe the story of the gradually healed blind man preceded this**.
1. He is chiding His disciples for their **slowness** of **spiritual understanding**. They were slow to **perceive**, slow to **comprehend** what Jesus was **saying & doing**.
 - a) **Spiritual maturity** is **not** something that happens **all at once**. We have to **grow & develop**.
- F. **Slide#23 Lastly**, What is **not** mentioned in vs.31 (or in 9:31, 10:33,34) is **WHY**?
1. **Mark** gives us the clearest statement of **WHY** after the 3 predictions. In 10:45 **The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, & to give His life as a ransom for many**
 2. **This** is the great **central fact** of **history** and of our **lives**. **Jesus, the Son of Man, the exalted human, divine God-man, came & was sent by God the Father - to give his life as a ransom for many**.
 - a) **Slide#24 God Can Ransom What Man Can’t**. Our **sin** had, as it were, **kidnapped us** and put us in a **prison** of our own making, **far from God**, in the **chains** of iniquity, under God’s holy **wrath**, and **powerless** to free ourselves.²

² John Piper on Mark 8:31

- (1) A ransom had to be paid.
- b) But listen to Ps.49:7,8 No one can **redeem** the life of another or give to God a **ransom** for them - the ransom for a life is **costly**, no payment is ever enough.
3. **In other words**, no mere man can ransom another man's soul. **And** you can't ransom your own.
- a) **Slide#25,26** Then listen to verse 15 of that psalm: **But God will** redeem me from the realm of the dead; He **will** surely take me to himself. **Man can't**. **God will**.
- G. "Peter, if you resist my plan to die, you resist God. You side with Satan against God. Satan doesn't want me dead, because he wants you in hell. Satan wants me to bow down and **worship him** and jump off temples for **fame** and turn stones into bread for **self-preservation**. **The last thing** he wants is for a ransom to be paid for his captives. **But** that's what God wants, Peter, because, he loves you. My coming to die as your **ransom** is *the love of God*."³

³ ibid