

9-5-21

Sermon: It Really Makes You Wonder

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37, CTW Ps 125

Hymns: 678, 461, 737

Theme: I believe that one of the greatest methods the Lord uses to have us understand Him, is to make us stop and ponder HIS truth in relationship to OURS. This is to make us WONDER. If that's the case, then we should expect some mysteries to mull over, expect some miracles to make us wonder, and then respond by exalting Him as King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

I. Do You Ever Just Look Up and Ask Why?

**A. "Why?" Why is this terrible thing happening to me?**

-Why did I lose my job?

-Why did I get sick?

-Why is my family member sick?

-Why did that wreck happen?

-Why did they die so soon?

-Why is my family so messed up?

\*Once I got an email from a young Christian wife who was going through a tough family problem. She was frustrated with God, and wondering why things were going wrong.

One thing I told her is that it is okay to ask why? We know this is true, because Jesus asked why on the cross, and He never did anything wrong.

The problem with asking **WHY** is that many times we won't get an answer in this world. That's why a wise man once said that a better question is, "What now?" -- "What should I do now, Lord?" I told the young lady that over time, God will surely show her the answer to this question.

\*God will show us what to do. He will lead us through even the darkest valleys. And it helps to know that He has been there too. But sometimes the Lord is going to make us wonder.

## **II. So Expect Some Mysteries.**

We will encounter some mysteries in life. As we live our lives, and as we look into God's Word, there will be some things that make us wonder.

Questions about God will arise in our hearts, and two of the most important questions come up in today's passage.

**A. The first one is: "Does God care about me?"** I can see the Greek woman in vs. 24-27 wondering about that.

\*Matthew 15:23 tells us that at first, Jesus wouldn't even answer her at all. So it's easy to see how that mother could have wondered: "Does the Lord care at all about me?"

\*She may have wondered, but her faith found the right answer in vs. 28, where she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." Then in vs. 29, Jesus told her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."

In the same story, Matthew 15:28 tells us that **Jesus also said:** "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And then, here in vs. 30 we see that when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

That woman found out that God really did care for her, and we should know it more! We know that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead!

And we know that Jesus will save anyone who turns to Him and receives Him as their Lord and Savior.

**B. Does God really care about you and me? -- The answer is absolutely yes.** We can see this truth even in the little things of the Lord. We can see God's care in little things like the sigh down in vs. 34.

There Jesus was about to heal the deaf man, and vs. 34 says: "Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, 'Ef-phatha,' that is, 'Be opened.'"

I never really noticed that sigh before. It says, "Jesus sighed". The word seems out of place. No doubt you've done your share of sighing.

If you raised teenagers, you've probably sighed. If you've tried to resist temptation, you've probably sighed.

If you've had your motives questioned or your best acts of love rejected, you have been forced to take a deep breath and let escape a painful sigh. . .

And when Jesus looked into the eyes of Satan's deaf victim, -- the only appropriate thing to do was sigh. The sadness of it all brought pain to our Master's heart.

But in an indirect way, God's pain is our comfort, because His pain for us reminds us that He cares for us."

### **III. Does God really care about you and me? -- The answer is absolutely yes.**

#### **A. But a harder question is: "Why does God do the things He does?"**

\*A great place to raise the "why" question is vs. 31-35 of today's passage.

**This touching story of the Lord's compassion is found only here in Mark's Gospel.** And it's worth noting that this poor, deaf man had the right kind of friends.

He had the kind of friends all of us need to be. I say that, because in vs. 32, he had friends who brought him to Jesus. He had friends who pleaded to Jesus on his behalf. And that's the best kind of friend anyone can ever have, except for Jesus Himself, of course.

Are you THAT kind of Friend? We must pray that we are.

#### **B. So in vs. 33-35, we see our best Friend of all work a great miracle for that deaf man.**

That was a wonderful miracle! -- But why did the Lord do it like that? Why did Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears? And why did the Lord apparently spit on His finger and touch the man's tongue?

Some say the Lord was using sign-language to show what He was going to do. But did Jesus have to do that to heal the man? The answer is definitely no.

\*The daughter with the demon wasn't even there when Jesus delivered her. Verse 30 tells us she was back at home. She may have been miles away, and that's not the only long-distance miracle Jesus ever worked.

So the Lord didn't have to put His fingers in the man's ears. And what about that spit? I usually go to my doctor for my medical care, and if I have an infection, they'll give me a shot or two. That doesn't bother me so much.

**But if that doctor ever starts spitting on his fingers, I'm heading for the door!**

Nobody is spitting on their finger and touching **my** tongue! -- Nobody but Jesus, that is. "Lord, I don't understand it. But I trust in You."

**C. Then, there are the other "why" questions.** This happened late in the Lord's ministry. Why didn't Jesus heal the man earlier? For that matter, why did that man have to be deaf in the first place?

Here, we've just got to say, "We don't know why." But do we really want a God we can always understand? If God was that small, there is no way He could run the universe, or save our souls.

\*God surely does care about you and me. We know this because of the cross! But questions will come up, and some of them cannot be answered in this world.

**IV. Sometimes the Lord is going to make us wonder, so expect some mysteries, but also expect some miracles.**

**A. As Bible-believing Christians, we should definitely expect some miracles in our lives.** Our God is and always has been a miracle working God!

I believe God is performing miracles somehow, somewhere, every single day in our world. I am sure of this, because people we know have personally experienced different kinds of miracles.

There are also many other testimonies of God working miracles in people's lives. And we know that God works miracles, because every time someone gets saved that is the greatest miracle of all!

God is certainly able to work miracles. In **Jeremiah 32:17**, the prophet said this to the Lord: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."

**Hebrews 13:8** says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." So, we know that yesterday, today, and forever, our God is a miracle working God!

**B. And we see two of His miracles in today's Scripture.**

The miracle of Jesus casting out a demon, and the miracle of Jesus instantly healing a man's hearing and speech.

**Two great miracles!** They remind us of what the Lord said in **Matthew 7:7**. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." These miracles also remind us that faith always makes a difference. Our faith may not always give us a miracle. But it will always make a difference.

Think about all of the miracles in the Bible. Whenever you open your Bible, you are never far away from a miracle. That's true in the Old Testament, as well as the New. It's also true because the Bible itself is one of God's miracles.

**C. Having been on my yearly retreat this past week, I happened upon one of the Old Testament miracles recorded in Joshua 10.** There our Almighty God stopped time for a day. Please listen starting in **Joshua 10:12-14**:

12. Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he

said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Ai-Jalon."

13. So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

14. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

Now that may be hard for you to believe. But if God couldn't stop time, then time would be bigger than God. But time's not bigger than God. God is bigger than time! God created time.

Most of us have timers on our phones. We can hit the pause button and time will stop. But God can stop the real thing easier than that. And one day about 3,000 years ago, that's exactly what God did.

How did the Lord do that? -- I have no idea. But here's something I do know: The same miracle-working God who stopped the sun for Joshua is our God! And all things are possible with Him!

**V. So we Can Conclude by Saying That Sometimes the Lord is going to make us wonder, but we should expect some miracles. And we should exalt our Father as Master of Miracles!**

**A. We should always exalt our Master! And that's what happened in vs. 37: "They were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'"**

They were exalting the Master. They were praising the Lord! They were giving glory to God. And so should we!

I don't remember ever seeing any place in God's Word where He says, "Now, hold on; wait a minute. You're praising me too much. You need to lay off that praise a little bit."

No! -- It's just the opposite. Our problem is that we don't praise Him enough. So over and over God calls on us to praise the Lord, and we could find dozens of examples.

Praising the Lord turns our hearts to the good and the best things in life. So God want us to praise Him for our own good. I guarantee it will be worth your while. We will be much happier in life if we will consistently and intentionally praise the Lord. And why not, because Jesus does all things well! He is worthy of our worship.

**B. That's the second reason to praise the Lord: Jesus Christ is worthy of our worship!**

He is worthy of our worship because of who He is: The Almighty God, Creator of all, King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Jesus is also worthy of our worship because of what He has done. He came to earth for us, suffered on the cross for us, took the guilt for our sin, died for us, and rose again from the dead!

Now He offers forgiveness and eternal life to all who will trust in Him. So Jesus is worthy of our worship! He does all things well!

So put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ! And keep trusting in the Lord, even when you don't understand. Expect some miracles along the way. And always exalt our Master.

Amen? Let Us Pray...