

15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 09/09/18

*Mount Calvary, West View*

ISAIAH 35: 4-7, JAMES 2: 1-18, MARK 7: 24-37

HYMNS:

SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR LSB #842,

PRAISE THE ALMIGHTY MY SOUL ADORE HIM LSB # 797,

LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US LSB #851,

OH FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING LSB #528

Theme: He Has Done ALL Things Well

+ **Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is a continuation of Saint Mark's Gospel, the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter:

***And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things Well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."***

I want to tell you about a lady, we will call her "Tessie", only because her name has been lost to the annals of time, and I am a Red Sox fan. Tessie was a waitress at the Monroeville Bob Evans. Now it should not make any difference, but I will tell you that she was an African-American. Now, this Bob Evans was a bit busy on a Thursday at 6:30 in the evening, and was a bit crowded, though there were no people waiting for a table. There were, as it seemed, a full complement of waitresses sufficient for the patrons, yet I noticed something. We had the only waitress that was hustling. I notice these things as both a business sympathizer, and as a detective analogous to Batman. What I observed was our dear waitress moving from table to table not just moving, but speedily moving. And she got our order promptly to the table and in front of the proper person. She also was attentive to the drinkware, for my glass never went below ¼ full, or if you like ¾ empty. I noticed the other tables of her responsibility were as well attended, and the tables of the other waitresses, well, let us put the best construction on everything and say,

“Not as well attended to.” To enhance the admiration I had, there was a certain 5-year-old who will remain nameless who had a potentiality to declare at inappropriate opportunities, “It’s my birthday!” Explaining to our poor overworked waitress that it was indeed NOT her birthday, she still took it upon herself to bring out a cupcake complete with lit candle for She-who-shall-not-be-named to enjoy as any 5-year-old would. I am sure many would look down upon our fair Tessie, for there are examples of individuals who do look down upon the working class, and the nationality of some; we do still have the sin of racism in some parts of our human species, but this individual was far superior in her actions than any of the others I witnessed, and she was indeed handsomely compensated with my tip, and a note which expressed, “I wish I could have given you more, for this is all the cash I have. You were the hardest working waitress I saw, and I hope you never lose your ability to do such service in all you do.” Indeed, she had done all things well.

Jesus returned from the region of Tyre and Sidon where He had hoped that the people would keep it quiet that He and His disciples were there, but you cannot keep good news contained. Actually, I would say that the devil got in there and spread the news so as to disrupt Jesus from His work or keep Him tired so as to fall short of doing His salutary work. Either way, Scripture tells us He could not be hidden. At some point, very quickly, Jesus is presented with the challenge to assist a mother with a possessed daughter. Now I am sure many a parent thought their child possessed after seeing that temper tantrum thrown in aisle 34-B in the local Walmart® toy aisle, but this was a true legitimate possession. The girl was indeed suffering at the hands of a demon. Now Mark makes mention that this woman was of Syrian and Phoenician descent, no less akin to I making mention that our waitress, “Tessie”, was of African-American descent. It should not matter, for Jesus here, just as He did it the last few Sundays in this Seventh chapter of Mark, challenged the common thinking and declared that Gentiles and Jews are the same children in the Father’s eyes and indeed need the same redemption. Jesus cared not that the woman was a gentile, He did care that she had great faith in the person that she was requesting the miracle from, and that her request

would be granted.

However, let us jump to the next miracle recorded by Mark, even though Jesus said not to tell anybody about it. You can understand the people's zealotry. Here is a man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. Now, one could say that because this person had more than one impediment to perfection of the hearing and the speaking of Jesus must do more than He has done in the past with the spitting and the shouting and the fingers in the ears, but that is just preposterous. Jesus did what He did and that is that; no more insight needed. With the miracle of faith, the man could hear plainly, and he spoke just as plain of a bona fide miracle no matter who is keeping score.

In this world we have all kinds of "deaf" and "Dumb" individuals, do we not? So many people are just not listening to God's word. Either they do not come to the services of God's house and thereby not hear the Word and thereby become "deaf" to His instruction, or worse yet, come to the services of God's house, hear the word, and like rocky soil, when the cares and persecutions of this world spring up, the Word planted withers away because to people without faith this world is more important than the next. They become deaf to the Word by their actions to faith.

And let us not forget the speechless. So many people have become "dumb" to the Word of God! When the time comes to speak on the properness of Scripture, they disappear into the shadows! When the time comes to offer God's Word as a comfort, they cannot find any words to say. An entire 66 book collection of things God has said and did and showed His power and imparted His wisdom and declared all people more precious than the birds of the air, and we are found speechless; dumb as it were. When it is time to speak of what we know rather than the doctrines of men, much is lacking in their speech; might as well keep their mouths shut.

People would like to use this text as a wonderful example of how Jesus opens your ears and loosens your tongue so that you too can be a wonderful instrument to the world in helping to spread the

Gospel! If you believe this as well, then you have been watching and listening to too many televangelists with their *works righteousness*, and *purpose-driven* theology. Jesus did not come here to be Tony Robbins, motivating you to great heights and feeling empowered to do the work given by the Father in heaven. Jesus came to hang on the cross, to shed His blood to forgive your sins, to die and appease the wrath of the Father. [Lutheran Differences Quotes?]

Having truly died on the cross, He has fulfilled the necessary requirements of the Father and salvation is secured for all, especially those who believe. Yet, how is man *to* believe? That is where the miracles come in. This man can hear and speak; the daughter can live sans-demon; the widow can live with her son for however long Jesus deems fit; the man can take up his mat and walk; the more than 9,000 with their bellies full; Peter can walk on the water; the countless other miracles that were not recorded in this book but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus IS The Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. All of these point to the Messiah Who has come as promised, believe in these for they testify of Him coming from the Father. Yet, to solidify comfort in sins forgiven, believe in the great Miracle of the empty tomb.

With the Resurrection, you have the full understanding that what Jesus says comes from God Himself, the Second person of the Trinity. You have life in the faith the Jesus died and takes away your sins. Miracles show us that Jesus controls all things, and He alone takes away sins. Deafness is in a sin-filled world. When Jesus removes it, He proves that He can and does remove sins. When the Holy Ghost moves, He moves you to believe in Jesus, then He moves you to act in faith: Baptism; confirmation in the faith; partaking of the supper for the forgiveness of sins. These are the works of faith, done by the Holy Spirit so that you know faith is there.

What about service to neighbor? Certainly, we do good works out of love for neighbor because Jesus first loved us. We do not do works to make God love us, that is what many people aim for, but it is

not Biblical. There is a sign on a church near my mother's which reads, "You cannot become a Christian reading your Bible, you must live it." Pure works righteousness if I ever read it. And how many people need to witness such actions to declare you are a Christian? Jesus shows us that true love is done without any witnesses. Not that everything you do should be in secret, but we certainly do not do things so that people will reward our good works. If you are looking for earthly reward, some form of heavenly tip from God for doing good, truly, truly, I say to you, you have your just reward. Remember, what you do in secret, your heavenly Father sees in secret, and thereby you are rewarded in the world to come.

Miracles are not for motivation to be more Christlike. We do not wait for a miracle before we believe in Jesus, even though a miracle does happen in baptism making you a child of God and no longer a child of this world. We do not double our efforts to be more Christlike in order to obtain a miracle. And we certainly do not need miracle to tell people about Christ, as if we will keep Him secret until we have a grand display to tell people. Miracles are for showing Christ and His desire to remove sin from our lives. He does so because everything He does is good. You are saved because He has done All things well ó so well, that we can tell others how good He has been. In our Triune God's Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING  
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment**