

## HEALING THE MUTE MAN

**MATTHEW 9:32,33**

### INTRODUCTION:

1. In the days of Jesus, demon possession was permitted which allowed Jesus to show His power over demons. (cf. John 9.3)
2. In Matthew 9, Jesus encounters a man who is mute because of being demon possessed.

### I. THE MAN

- A. **MATTHEW 9.32:** *“As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.”*
  1. In context, Jesus had just healed two men who were blind. (Matt. 9.27-31)
  2. It is implied that these two men who had been healed brought this mute man to Jesus. (Matt. 9.32).
- B. What was your condition before you became a Christian?
  1. **EPHESIANS 2.1:** *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses”* Literally, went off the path.
  2. **EPHESIANS 2.1:** *“...and sins”* Missing the mark.
  3. **EPHESIANS 2.3:** *“conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind”*
  4. How can we not try to bring others to Jesus? (Ps. 66.16)

### II. THE MIRACLE

- A. The miracle consists of three components.
  1. **MATTHEW 9.33:** *“And when the demon was cast out”* Emphasizes the authority of Jesus. (Luke 4.36; John 3.2)
  2. **MATTHEW 9.33:** *“the mute spoke.”* Emphasizes the attitude of the man. (Isa. 35.6,7)
  3. **MATTHEW 9.33:** *“And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”* Amazement.
- B. How did you feel when you obeyed the gospel?
  1. **ROMANS 6.3,4:** You were made alive.
  2. The Ethiopian Eunuch rejoiced. (Acts 8.39)

**CONCLUSION:** It is a message that we ought to take to heart.

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**January 23, 2022**

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### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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### A GIVING ATTITUDE

When the apostle Paul preached the gospel, his motives were often called into question. However he did not preach with the intention of misleading his audience (1 Thess. 2.3). While others used the gospel as a means of gain (1 Tim. 6.5), Paul did not use preaching *“as a cloak for covetousness”* (1 Thess. 2.4). He did not spread the good news of Christ to gain the favor of man (1 Thess. 2.4,6). His motivation for preaching was his love for God and the brethren (1 Thess. 2.4,7,8).

Whether one puts together a sermon or sits down with his neighbor, the motivation for sharing the gospel ought to always lie in our desire to please God and our love for man. If you or I have other motives in preaching the gospel, it compels us to change the message to fit our goals. We all want to be liked and accepted by our friends and family. How tempting it is to change what we believe because we do not want to offend those around us. Do you go along with the professed beliefs of others so that you can get along (John 12.42)?

Christians cannot govern their faith by how the world may react to them. Instead we are to allow faith to govern our actions and boldly stand for the truth because of our desire to please God. CLP

## ADDRESSING COVID DIVISION

JOHN 14:26

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The pandemic has brought up a number of issues that have caused division, even in the Lord's church.
2. Jesus promises peace. But how do we achieve peace among ourselves in light of the differences we have on COVID?

### I. UNITY HELPS OUR MESSAGE

- A. Jesus prays for unity. (John 17.20-23)
  1. People: Who did Jesus have in mind when He prayed for unity? (John 17.20)
  2. Purpose: What was the reason why Jesus prayed for unity among His people? (John 17.21,23)
- B. The way that we handle our differences impacts the effectiveness of the gospel.
  1. Are you *"blameless and harmless"* (Phil. 2.15)
  2. How can we get along with those who think differently in reference to COVID? (Phil. 2.5).

### II. UNITY HELPS OUR POSITIVE INFLUENCE

- A. **MATTHEW 5.13:** *"You are the salt of the earth"*
  1. Question: *"if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?"* If we lose our positive influence...
  2. Answer 1: *"It is then good for nothing"* Losing our positive influence makes us useless. (2 Tim. 2.21)
  3. Answer 2: *"but to be thrown out"* We will be cast out without having a positive influence. (Matt. 8.12; 25.30)
  4. Answer 3: *"and trampled underfoot by men."* The idea is to be thought of as profane. (Heb. 10.29)
- B. What can cause me to lose my saltiness and no longer be a positive influence?
  1. **MARK 9.50:** *"Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."* Influence is damaged by division.
  2. Our speech is to be *"with grace, seasoned with salt"* (Col. 4.6). Speech that is with mercy, love, and kindness.

**CONCLUSION:** We can disagree, but the world still needs to see the heart of Jesus in our lives.

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN: BELIEVING

That belief is necessary for salvation is indisputable. Jesus Himself said that *"whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3.16). Later, Jesus said that *"unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins"* (John 8.24). When Peter preached to the household of Cornelius, he told them that *"whoever believes in Him will receive the remission of sins"* (Acts 10.43). In the last article, we saw the essentiality of hearing as taught in Romans 10. This same chapter also tells us about belief (Rom. 10.9,10).

The religious world mostly agrees that belief is a necessary component of salvation. But most do not understand the Bible definition of belief. The word, "belief" means much more than just assenting or accepting as fact that Jesus is the Christ. The best definition of faith is given by illustration in the Bible. In Romans 4.12, we are told to *"walk in the steps of faith which our father Abraham had."* Abraham is used as an illustration to explain to us the concept of faith. We are to have the same kind of faith that Abraham had. What kind of faith did Abraham have?

First, Abraham had a faith that simply accepted what God said. In the first part of Romans 4.3, it tells us that *"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."* If you put that in context, God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. Abraham did not doubt God, but accepted what God told him as true (Gen. 15.4-6). Because Abraham accepted what God promised him, God considered him as righteous.

Second, Abraham had a faith that acted on what God said. Abraham was a hundred years old. Sarah was ninety. Both of them were well past the age of having children. Yet in spite of their age and the "deadness of Sarah's womb" (Rom. 4.19), they engaged in an intimate act resulting in Sarah conceiving a son. They accepted what God told them and then acted on it. And once again, Romans 4 characterizes Abraham as righteous (Rom. 4.19-22).

The application of this teaching is given in the next chapter. *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Rom. 5.1). We are saved when we believe with the kind of faith that accepts what God says and then acts in obedience to what God says. James put it this way: *"Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works"* (James 2.18).

CLP