



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn Term

Series – Gospel of Mark

Gathering & Date – 25th November 2018

Title – Time set aside

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading – Mark 7:31-37 & 8:22-26

Main message of this talk in one sentence: What lessons can we learn about kingdom breakthrough from two stories of healing

Main points –

Three common themes that are reflected in both stories on healing

1. It is God's timing:

Both stories ended with the same theme in which Jesus tells the men not to tell anyone. He has come to fulfil His mission, outlined in Luke 4 (The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord...), and the people think they know what is going to happen. They thought that the Messiah was coming to bring a new earthly kingdom defeating all other principalities and powers including the Romans. Jesus knew this was not going to be the case but it was not time for the fulfilled kingdom to come.

Lesson 1: It is God's timing not ours – but he can be trusted

2. God drew the men away from the crowd

The two stories of healing, in the gospel of Mark, are written with other passages about spiritual blindness and deafness. Mark is pointing to Jesus' ability to not only bring healing to the body but He also restores our ability to spiritually see and hear. In these cases, Jesus takes the men away from the crowd to bring the healing. For whatever reason, Jesus needed the individuals away from the crowd to bring the healing.

Lesson 2: The invitation of the Father is to come away and be alone with him – in this place we encounter God afresh and our spiritual vision and hearing is restored

3. Jesus reveals himself in the healing

In both these stories of healing, Jesus uses spittle to bring the healing. According to the Talmud, a religious leaders book of wisdom explaining the Torah, states that 'according to tradition the spittle of the firstborn of a father has the power to heal...' In these healings, Jesus reveals his character in that He is the first born son of His Father and in being the firstborn, he inherits a double portion.

Lesson 3: The healings, and the method of healing, reveals the character of God

For further thought and prayer –

1. What is the breakthrough you are currently seeking?
2. Have you got any stories of breakthrough that you can share with the group?
3. What are you seeking God for at the moment?
 - a. In regards vision
 - b. In regards hearing God's word for a situation
4. How are you making time, outside the crowd, to spend time with God?
5. As you wait for the breakthrough, how is God revealing himself to you?
6. What is God saying to you through the readings and what is he asking you to do about it?
7. Take time to pray for each other as we seek breakthrough together