

## **He Has Done All Things Well**

Mark 7:31-37

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2015

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

Our Lord has done all things well.

He opened the ears of the deaf man. He made the deaf man to hear. He thereby reincluded the deaf man in society. He who was excluded because of his disability is now included because of his ability. He could not communicate with others now may communicate with others. He who had not community now has community. For the deaf man it was surely like rising from the dead.

Our Lord did all of this for the deaf man. Our Lord spit. Our Lord groaned. Our Lord looked up to heaven. Our Lord put his fingers into the ears of the deaf man. What all of these things might mean specifically I do not know, but when our Lord does them the deaf man hears. The mute man speaks. Therefore whatever else the actions of our Lord may mean, they certainly mean that this deaf man hears. Therefore our Lord no matter how He does things, He does them all well.

And this is not the only thing that our Lord does well.

Our Lord also restores sight to the blind. On one occasion where He did this He also spit. Our Lord heals a man with a withered hand. Our Lord heals a man from dropsy. Our Lord heals a woman who could not straighten herself upright. Our Lord heals a woman who was subject to bleeding for twelve years. Our Lord healed Peter's mother-in-law from a fever. Our Lord purified lepers. Our Lord healed a paralyzed man such that he had the strength to pick up his own mat and walk home.

Our Lord liberated these people from their exclusion from society. Our Lord took them from being outcasts and gave them necessary abilities to be regularly functioning people the way the Creator intended them to function. Some of them had to beg in order to survive. They did not need to beg any longer. Some of them God cast out of society, like the lepers. Our Lord reintroduced them into society when He healed them. It was as if they had all been dead excluded from life the way unpopular children are excluded from life on the playground and then suddenly they rise from the dead and are included with everyone else at the Lord's action.

He has indeed done all things well.

And this is not the only things that the Lord has done well.

The Lord also performed many miraculous signs. The first of them was the creation of 120 gallons of fine wine out of 120 gallons of water. He performed this miracle at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. This was a great miracle unto itself, but it was not simply a miracle of His great power. Since the Old Testament teaches us that God considers new fine wine a blessing, not only was our Lord creating wine out of water, He was also restoring the blessings of God to the couple who was getting married on that day.

The Lord walked on the water. That in and of itself would have been a great miracle, but our Lord does not simply walk on the water in order to perform some kind of parlor trick. He walks on the water to demonstrate His dominion over the creation. He thereby shows Himself to be the creator. He not only can walk on the water Himself, He can also grant that other people walk on water, like Peter when he requested it.

The Lord on one occasion commanded the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee and they obeyed Him. Once again our Lord demonstrates that He is the creator of all things because He has

authority over the creation. He can command the weather and indeed seated at God's right hand He does command the weather. That is why you pray to Him about the weather. But when He commanded the wind and the waves on the Sea of Galilee, it did not merely prove who He was and is. It also saved the disciples' lives. If our Lord had not commanded the wind and the waves on that occasion to be still, the boat in which the disciples were sailing would have filled with water and they would have drowned. By commanding the wind and the waves to be still and thereby putting an end to the storm that had blown up on the Sea of Galilee, our Lord demonstrates not only His great power as creator but also His great compassion. He used His power on that occasion to save the lives of His disciples.

Our Lord's miracles are often that way, even His healings. They not only demonstrate His power and authority, they also show His compassion. The feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand not only demonstrates our Lord's abilities, but they also show His great care for those who are in need.

He has indeed done all things well.

Our Lord casts demons out of people

One thing that I have always found curious is how the Old Testament rarely talks about demon possession. The closest that it gets to mentioning demon possession is the evil spirit that God sent to torment King Saul. Other than that not much is said in the Old Testament about demon possession. Then you get to the New Testament and as soon as our Lord shows up the demons do to. They confront Him right away in a synagogue after our Lord begins His ministry.

The demons or unclean spirits know who He is. They are aware that He can torment them before the Day of Judgment. They are terrified at Him and yet given their lack of overt activity in the Old Testament I cannot help but think that they show up in the New Testament for any other reason than to oppose our Lord.

He casts them out. He has authority over the unclean spirits. He has authority over the demons. He has authority over the powers of Satan and of hell. It does not matter if a thousand demons inhabit one person the Lord casts them all out.

And like all miracles of our Lord His exorcisms show compassion. He casts the demons out and the person whom the demons had possessed is relieved of his suffering. People whom the demons afflicted with muteness regain their ability to speak. People who had spent their time in cemeteries cutting themselves are relieved from their affliction.

Our Lord does all things well.

Our Lord raises the dead.

When a widow lost her only son she lost her joy. She also lost her income and status in ancient society. She had lost everything. She needed more than some kind of hope of a glory off yonder. She needed more than the survival of her son's soul in some kind of ill defined after life that no one is able to describe. What she needed was someone to give her son back to her. That is what our Lord did. He raised the young man from the dead and gave him back to his mother. He restored her joy to her and everything else as well.

When Jairus' little girl was sick and at the point of death by the time our Lord arrived she had died. The servants of Jairus figured that it was too late to do anything now that the little girl was dead. While the girl was alive there was hope because Jesus was capable of healing her, but they were convinced that now that she was dead there was nothing left to do for her. But they were wrong. Our Lord told them that the little girl was not really dead, but only sleeping. That is how the Lord views

death. He views it as a sleep. The point being that sleep is temporary. Eventually one wakes up. Our Lord makes death just as temporary as sleep. He wakes the dead by raising them up. In order to prove all of this to Jairus' household and also to us, our Lord raises Jairus' daughter from the dead.

When Lazarus dies our Lord deliberately let him die because our Lord wants to demonstrate that He is the resurrection and the life. In other words our Lord is the One who on the Last Day will raise all of us from the dead. In order to demonstrate that He is the One who raises the dead, He raises Lazarus from the dead in advance. He does this so that we may believe that the Father sent our Lord to do what He does. Our Lord performs everything that the Father asks Him to do and He does it well. There is nothing too impossible for our Lord to accomplish. Even raising the dead is within His ability and power. When our Lord raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus was not a zombie or some kind of horror flick undead. Our Lord commanded the people with Him to remove the grave clothes of Lazarus. After all now that he had risen from the dead Lazarus no longer needed his grave clothes. You will not need yours either when our Lord raises you from the dead. How do you know that the Lord will raise you from the dead? He raised Lazarus from the dead and in so doing declared that He is the resurrection and the life.

He does all things well.

Our Lord spoke the Word of God faithfully.

If someone needed their sins pointed out to them our Lord did this without fear. He rebuked the faithless in their unfaithfulness. He pronounced woes of death upon the impenitent and the legalistic. He warned His disciples and us against people who falsely represented God. He explained God to us in ways that were accessible if you had the ears to hear.

If someone was penitent our Lord pronounced God's forgiveness upon them. He was generous with His mercy. Our Lord did not and does not care what His reputation looks like when He grants the absolution. He does not care what other people think about Him when He forgives sinners of their sins. He is not concerned that others may think that He is not as holy or as just or as righteous as He should be because He forgives the sins of the penitent. If someone is penitent, our Lord forgives them.

He conveys the nature of God accurately. There is no falsehood in His preaching. He tells it the way that it is often without sugar coating it. He does not cave in to the style of any time or the desires of any person. He preaches and teaches only what the Father gave Him to preach and to teach. Our Lord executed that vocation as preacher. He said the Word of God accurately even when He acquired enemies because of it. He is the Lord and nothing stopped Him nor will anything stop Him now from speaking the Word of God accurately.

He is the rebuker and the forgiver of sins. He has done and is doing all things well.

Our Lord procured your salvation. He died for you. He had Himself executed for you. He fulfilled all of the Old Testament Scriptures about Him when He did this. When it was done He Himself declared that it was finished. Your salvation is completed. Your redemption is completed. Your forgiveness is completed. None of it remains to be done later on. None of it remains for you to do. He has done it all and He has done it well.

Everlasting life is now yours. You are merely waiting for the day when He will bestow it. And He will bestow it soon. He is coming soon. He is coming soon for you. He will raise you from the dead. You will enter into life everlasting in a creation restored to its original beauty and perfection. You will stand before Him on that day and walk with Him in the cool of day. On that day you will sing His praises to His face. And you will tell Him Himself, "You have done all things well!"

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.