

Scripture Reference: Mark 7 31-37

Date: November 25, 2012

Title: "The Best Thing that Ever Happened to You"

Focus: Showing the difference God makes.

### **Intro:**

1. In the Bible people are often seen coming to Jesus because they wanted something from Him. Do you suppose there was ever a time when He wanted something from them?

2. What could God want from man? To see if He mattered.

### **Body:**

*"[Jesus] went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. They brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hand on him."* (vv. 31-32)

- During Jesus' three-year public ministry, people regularly came because they wanted something from Him.

- Some came for food, others for healing. Some just came out of curiosity wanting to see what Jesus would say or do.

- The passage before us is a case where some people brought a deaf man with a speech deficit. They wanted him healed.

- But, this account reveals God wanted something from them.

*"[Jesus] gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it."*

- Ever wonder why He did this?

- Maybe he was concern over the impact the crowds would have for the people of the communities in which He traveled. (Matt. 14:15)

- Maybe it was because of the grief the Pharisees would give the one healed, they had done that before (John 9, the man born blind).

- Maybe it was out of respect for the one healed and the adjustment he needed to make. Why add to his grief?

- Maybe it was a test?

Maybe Jesus wanted to see if what He had done outweighed what they were told to do.

Could they help themselves or did they have to say something. *"Jesus made such a difference in my life, I've just got to tell somebody!"*

Would God test people in such a fashion?

- Yes.

- Abraham was tested with Isaac (Gen. 22:12) and Peter was tested on the lake (Matt. 14:22-33).

- It pleases God to see His disciples act on their faith in Him.
- Faith in Him that does not influence one's actions is non-productive faith. (James 2:14-21)
- What difference does faith in your life? There is the expectation that what a disciple believes about God will directly affect the manner in which he lives.

*“They were utterly astonished, saying, ‘He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’”*

- Jesus "utterly astonished" these people.
- When was the last time you could say that of God?

**Dennis Woods** *"I have a special thanks and praise for answered prayer. Last week I asked you to pray about a medication, a chemotherapy injection, that I needed on a monthly basis. The cost was over 5000 dollars per injection. My part after Medicare was 1000 dollars per injection. The Cancer Research Center called on Monday to tell me that the HealthWell Foundation would provide a grant for the injections in the amount of 7,000 dollars. All I will pay per doctor visit is a copay of \$4.99 for the administration of the injection itself. Needless to say I am very happy at the outcome, and thank you for all your prayers."*

- What would it take for God to astonish you, so much so that you couldn't keep your mouth shut?

### **Closing:**

1. What do your actions say about your faith in God? As God looks at your life, is He blessed by what He sees?
2. What can you do to put your faith into action? Is there something tangible for you to do to place yourself in a position to be "utterly astonished" by God?