

Growth Group Questions

16th Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 8, 2024

Introduction

Jesus' personal miracle to the deaf-mute of Decapolis is one of my favorites, because it shows both his power and his tender care.

Explain why that is true and then share your favorite miracle of Jesus with each other.

Into the Word – Isaiah 35:4-7a

1. In verse four Isaiah talks about both God's vengeance and salvation. Explain how those two things are related.
2. Many Old Testament prophecies have a partial fulfillment and a later perfect fulfillment. (Described like looking at mountains from a distance and not realizing how far apart the peaks are.) Describe how verses 5-6 were partially fulfilled in the life of Jesus and perfectly fulfilled in Jesus' second coming.
3. When in your personal ministry might you share these words as a comfort to someone?

Into the Word – Acts 3:1-10

4. Some people (especially 20th century American false teachers) taught that miraculous healing is made possible by the fervent faith of the person being healed. What was this lame man looking for and what does that say to that teaching?
5. The man who was only looking for money, found healing in Jesus' name instead. What did that lead him to do?

6. The healed man only shared his joy at what God had done for him, but what result do you see in verse 10? What does that tell us for our evangelism efforts?

Into the Word – Mark 7:31-37

7. Jesus left the Jewish region around Galilee after the crowds abandoned him due to his "bread of life" teaching. What did he find when he got to the Gentile region of the Decapolis?
8. How did the deaf-mute man get to see Jesus? What similarity do we see in our responsibility to friends who don't know Jesus?
9. Why did Jesus touch the man's ears and tongue? Why did he look to the sky and sigh deeply?
10. Why would Jesus have told the witnesses not to tell anyone? (Remember his purpose and mission)
11. Again, what was the result of the people sharing their joy and amazement in what Jesus did?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, lead me to turn to you for perfect healing in body, soul, and spirit. Embolden me to bring my unbelieving friends and family to see you that they might know your perfect healing as well. Let me follow you in all I do. Amen.