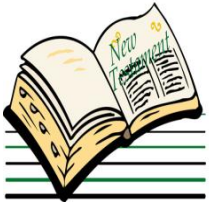


Sermon Notes

Title: "Jesus' Power and the Response of Faith"

Text: Matthew 9:18-34

Theme: When anyone hears the Word of Christ there is always a response, either a response of faith that reaches out in hope and trust in Jesus or a response that does not believe Jesus is who He claims to be.



I. Jesus Overturns a _____ Man's Grief and a _____ Woman's Desperation (18-26)

II. Jesus _____ the _____ of Two Blind Men (27-31)

III. Jesus Grants _____ to a Man Unable to Speak Because of a Demon (32-34)

IV. Applications

A. Whether you are weak or strong, only _____ accesses the _____ of Christ.

B. Jesus confronts you with the call to _____ Him _____ you _____ His Word.

C. Jesus' power is not _____ upon your faith or lack of it.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Who came to Jesus and knelt before Him? What did this person want (v. 18)?
2. As Jesus was going on the way to help this person, what interrupted His journey (v. 20)? What happened (v. 22)?
3. What happened with the person who first came to Jesus (vv. 23-25)?
4. What did Jesus say that caused the gathered mourners to laugh at Jesus (v. 24b)? What did Jesus mean by this?
5. As Jesus was returning home, who followed Him? What did they want (v. 27)?
6. What was the challenging question Jesus asked these men (v. 28b)? How did they answer Jesus (v. 28c)? What happened (v. 29)?
7. What stern warning did Jesus issue to these two men (v. 30)? Why do you think Jesus warned them as He did?
8. What was the reason that a man brought to Jesus was not able to speak (v. 32)? What happened to this man (v. 33a)?
9. How did the crowds react to all that Jesus had done? What did they exclaim (v. 33)?
10. Who were not impressed with Jesus' exorcism of the demon? How did they explain what Jesus did (v. 34)?
11. Is faith meritorious (does it earn God's favor)? Why or why not? What is the role of faith in the life of the Christian?
12. What is meant by the term "saving faith"?
13. Have there been any situations, circumstances, or events in your life that have led you to look beyond yourself to something greater? If so, what?
14. In what way (or ways) are you confronted with the choice to believe every time you read or hear God's Word? How would reading Genesis 1 challenge you to believe? How would hearing about Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob challenge you to believe? How would the genealogies of 1 Chronicles challenge you to believe?
15. Does your lack of faith limit God's power? Why or why not? Is there any sense in which a person's lack of faith "limits" the work of God in his or her life?