

Mark 7:31–37 | “He Does All Things Well”

Preached on June 23, 2024 by Pastor Matt Brown

You can turn in your Bibles to Mark 7, and we will be in verses 31–37 today, but we will be especially focusing on verse 37. *[pauseeee]*

The past few weeks have been unique, so I’ve taken a short break from our series in the book of Matthew. *[pause]*

Two weeks ago was our church picnic, a week ago was Father’s Day, and next week I’ll be gone on vacation...

...So I figured that instead of starting back up in Matthew, I’d just do something else today. *[pauseeee]*

Do you know how sometimes a phrase or verse in the Bible just really sticks out to you when you are reading? *[pause]*

Recently, I was reading through the gospel of Mark, and a sentence really just popped out to me.

And it was in Mark 7:37, where it says, “He has done all things well.” *[pauseeeee]*

Have you ever met someone who just did everything well? *[pause]*

No matter if it was sports or school, no matter if it was fixing something or driving something, they were good at it. *[pause]*

They got straight A’s.

They were the star basketball player.

They are good at their job.

They are successful with money.

They know so many facts, and any topic that you bring up, they somehow know all about it, and seem proficient in it. *[pause]*

This often baffles us, and at one point you may have even said to that person, “How are you good at *everything!*?” *[pause]*

Well in a bigger, deeper, wider, and more profound way, the crowds in the story that we will look at this morning can’t help but exclaim that Jesus does all things well.

And His ability to do all things well points us beyond a mere human, who is naturally talented, to His amazing identity as the promised Messiah. *[pause]*

Let’s READ the story. *[READ]*

Jesus is in a predominantly Gentile region, and people bring to Him a man who is deaf and had a speech issue. *[pause]*

Imagine living like that...

Not only unable to hear anything, but also unable to communicate with words. *[pause]*

Essentially, he only had 3 out of the 5 senses.

And the people that this guy knows beg Jesus to lay His hands on him. *[pauseeee]*

So Jesus takes this man aside privately, and does some very interesting things...

He puts his fingers into the guy's ears, spits, and then touches his tongue. *[pause]*

Now to many of us, this sounds disgusting, but remember, Jesus does all things well, so He has a purpose.

And His purpose seems to be to engender faith in this man. *[pauseee]*

Jesus was communicating with this man by showing him what He would do.

He would heal his hearing and speaking problems, and it would be a purposeful thing, and would come from Jesus Himself. *[pauseee]*

His own fingers in the man's ears, his own spit onto the man's tongue shows that this man would receive healing from Christ, and only Christ could do this. *[pauseeee]*

After all of this, Jesus looks up to heaven and sighs.

And this is probably showing Jesus' emotional involvement in this event and deep prayer to the Father. *[pause]*

He says, "Be opened," and miraculously the man's ears were opened, and his tongue released, so that the man could speak normally. *[pauseeeee]*

Just imagine the scene in your mind! *[pause]*

A man who couldn't hear, and couldn't speak much at all, is now speaking plainly and correctly for all to hear.

No wonder the crowds became so astonished! *[pause]*

In fact, Jesus knows how much of a frenzy this could cause and He charges them to not tell anyone. *[pauseee]*

The word used here is really that Jesus "commanded" or "ordered" them not to tell anyone about it, and even kept telling them not to say anything. *[pause]*

The reason is because it was not time yet for Jesus to be publicly proclaimed to all.

And without His impending death and resurrection, people would get the wrong idea about who He was. *[pause]*

He definitely didn't want to be known simply as a mere wonder-worker, for He was way more.

But this crowd is way too astonished, for they are "astonished beyond measure". *[pauseeee]*

It's kind of like how today someone might say, "My mind was blown by what I saw!" *[pause]*

They were just utterly astounded by what they saw that they couldn't contain themselves.

And that's when they say, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." *[pauseeee]*

What a statement!

And it just goes to show that...

Jesus does all things well!

Isn't that so true? *[pause]*

What has Jesus done that *hasn't* been done well? *[pause]*

Has He flopped in some way? *[pause]*

Has He done something that we would call, "not good"? *[pause]*

Is He deficient in any way?

Does He do things that are lousy or mediocre?

Would we call any of His works second-rate or of poor quality?

No way! For our Lord does all things well! *[pauseeeee]*

We are flawed, imperfect, and weak, so there are many times that when we do something, we are thinking, "That was not good at all." *[pause]*

As sinners saved by grace, we notice this more and more in ourselves as our sin becomes more clear as time goes on...

We think back on our day, and consider, "Wow, that was not good today." *[pause]*

We think about our sins, our failures, our lack of doing what we should do. *[pauseeee]*

There are some days where we could very easily say, “I did not do well, live well, speak well, act well, or even think well.”

Yet Jesus does all things well, and one thing this shows us is His identity, so let’s talk about...

I. The identity of the one who does all things well.

It matters *who* does something, doesn’t it? *[pause]*

When I first moved to Clearfield, there were multiple times that I was asked by someone for directions to get somewhere.

But the problem was that I had no idea where anything was because I was new to town. *[pause]*

Those poor people who asked me for directions quickly realized that they had picked the wrong person to ask, and they probably left more confused and lost than they were before they talked to me. *[pauseee]*

It matters who is giving directions because it matters *who* does something. *[pauseeee]*

We look for reliable, proven, experienced, knowledgeable people to do something.

Well the One who does all things well is none other than Jesus Christ, and with that knowledge, we can have utmost assurance and comfort. *[pauseeee]*

He is the *promised Messiah*. *[pauseeee]*

Did you notice how the crowds highlight that Jesus “even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak”? *[pause]*

Well listen to Isaiah 35:5-6 as it talks about the coming of the Lord, and the amazing blessings that come with that...

It says, “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy...” *[pauseeee]*

Jesus’ presence and work here are showing us that the Lord has truly come, and this miracle is a glimpse of the inbreaking kingdom.

He is truly the promised Messiah, the promised Deliverer, the promised King. *[pauseeeee]*

In this story, we also see highlighted hints to the fact that Jesus is God. *[pause]*

Remember when God told Moses, “...Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?”¹ *[pause]*

¹ Exodus 4:11.

Well here we see Jesus making someone hear and speak, for He is truly God! *[pause]*

Also, when the people say that Jesus has done all things well, it points back to God in the Creation account, who “saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good...”²
[pause]

Surely, God Himself was present and among the people! *[pauseeee]*

Seeing and knowing Jesus’ identity gives us great confidence and comfort that He has done all things well. *[pause]*

He is the Son of God, so His righteous life was *lived* well, in fact, it was lived perfectly for us, so that by believing in Him, His righteous life would be credited to our account. *[pause]*

He is the promised Deliverer, so His work on the Cross was *done* well, and aren’t you thankful that it was?! *[pauseeee]*

He is the Creator God, so you can trust what He is doing in your life. *[pause]*

He is the promised Messiah, so you can have confidence that His work has been done right.
[pause]

This is our hope, this is our peace, this is our comfort in life and in death—that it was *God* that acted on our behalf. *[pauseeee]*

We must continually remind ourselves who Christ is.

He is both Creator and Redeemer, Messiah and Lord. *[pauseeee]*

So many times we become so accustomed to talking about Jesus or knowing Him that He becomes so familiar that we forget His majestic identity.

Yet we must remember that He’s the God who can open the ears of the deaf, and loose the tongue of the mute. *[pauseeee]*

He’s the One who does all things well, and yet even though He is high up and has the greatest identity there is—He is compassionate. *[pause]*

That’s a second thing that we see in this story...

II. The compassion of the one who does all things well.

It matters *if* someone does something or not, right? *[pause]*

There have been numerous times where some sort of tragic incident happens to another person, and people just stand by and watch it happen. *[pause]*

² Genesis 1:31.

Someone is getting beat up, and people just stand there and do nothing, or take out their phones and record it. *[pause]*

Don't they have compassion to do something? *[pause]*

Well thankfully, Jesus isn't like that, for He has great compassion. *[pauseeee]*

In this story, Jesus is in a predominantly Gentile region, and yet He reaches out to show grace to those, who at that time, were considered "outsiders". *[pauseee]*

This guy was most likely a Gentile, and he was also deaf and had a speech issue. *[pause]*

In that day, he would be considered an outcast, and yet Jesus steps up to heal him?

And not only heal him, but to take him aside, and be willing to touch him? *[pause]*

Many of us wouldn't want to put our fingers in our family members' ears or touch their tongue, yet Jesus does it to this man. *[pauseeee]*

He is willing to reach out and touch the needy, and isn't that the best news possible, for we are the needy. *[pause]*

No ethnicity, no weakness, no past of yours, no negative thoughts that others have of you, can obstruct Jesus from showing you compassion. *[pauseeee]*

He even focuses on the individual, as is evidenced by taking this man aside privately. *[pauseeeee]*

You aren't just a number or a faceless crowd member to Jesus.

He isn't some detached, unemotional person. *[pause]*

He didn't just quickly heal the guy to get on to something more important.

And by touching the exact parts that needed healing, it was another way of Jesus showing compassion to this man. *[pause]*

It's like Jesus was saying, "I see you. I see your problems. I see your needs. I know them. And I will do something about it." *[pauseeee]*

Is this the way you view Jesus or do you view Him as more distant and uninterested in you? *[pauseeee]*

Maybe you are struggling with physical pain from some sort of ailment that just won't go away...

Maybe you are struggling with sorrow, for you just lost someone near and dear to you...

Maybe you are struggling with emotional pain and turmoil, as it feels like your life is just so hectic...

Jesus sees you, He sees your needs, He knows about them, and He's compassionate. *[pauseee]*

He's not hesitant to take you aside and spend time with you in communion.

He's willing to reach out in grace and gentleness. *[pauseeee]*

The crowd exclaimed that Jesus "has done" all things well. *[pause]*

What else does that show us but that Christ *acts*.

Meaning, He *does* things.

He intervenes, He takes action, He moves to do something, He accomplishes. *[pause]*

He's not a God, who is idle.

He's not a Lord, who sits back on His throne while everyone else does the dirty work.

No, He acts in compassion toward the needy.

And the greatest display of this was in the incarnation and the cross. *[pauseee]*

In compassion, the Son of God acted by coming and being born in this dirty, needy, fallen world. *[pause]*

He was willing to reach out in mercy and compassion so much so that He came to us.

And then even went so far as to be nailed to a cross of wood, bleed, and die for us, taking the wrath of God for our sin...

Now that's compassion, now that's a God who acts and intervenes on behalf of the needy and the outcast. *[pauseeee]*

Since Christ has done all things well, it shows us that He *acts*, and we see here that Jesus most definitely *acts in compassion*. *[pauseee]*

The whole of Scripture shows us a God who does so. *[pause]*

From creating us, to even the promise after the Fall of a Deliverer, to His unwavering love for rebellious Israel, to His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection...

...To His giving of the Spirit, to His granting of life and strength, to His promise of coming again and making all things right...

...God is God who acts in compassion. *[pauseee]*

The One who does all things well does them well on behalf of sinners like us, and so we are undeserving recipients of things done well by God. *[pauseeee]*

Who are we to deserve such things done well by such a compassionate Christ?

For we are like that needy, deaf man—needy unless Christ intervenes.

Unable to do anything to help ourselves, but only reliant upon the compassionate grace of our Savior to save us. *[pauseeeee]*

Will you draw near to the one who does all things well, knowing that He’s compassionate?
[pause]

He’s not there tapping His foot in displeasure saying, “You again, huh?” *[pauseeee]*

No, He has already reached out in compassion through the incarnation and the cross, and He never stops acting in compassion. *[pause]*

He’s ready to give you daily bread, to give you strength for the day, to give you comfort and peace amidst life’s troubles, and to give you superabundant grace in a world that’s often so graceless. *[pauseeee]*

Will you drift away or draw near to the compassionate Christ? *[pauseeee]*

Since Jesus has done all things well, we thirdly see...

III. The power of the one who does all things well.

Have you ever met someone who talked a big game, but who wasn’t actually good at something?
[pause]

Maybe it was a co-worker, who talked as if they knew all about how to do something well, yet when you saw them do it, it wasn’t pretty. *[pause]*

Maybe it was that kid who said he was amazing at basketball, but you saw him play, and it surely fell short of being “amazing”. *[pause]*

Well for Jesus, He didn’t merely *talk* of doing things well, He *did* things well, and it just goes to show us His great power. *[pauseeee]*

In this miracle, Jesus literally commanded the man’s ears to be opened and they obeyed! *[pause]*

Can *you* do that to a deaf person?

Your children won’t even listen every time when you command their ears to “be opened”.
[pauseeee]

Deaf ears listen and obey the Lord by opening up to His Word.

And did you notice how the man's tongue is said to be "released"? *[pause]*

The word used here is of something being liberated from bonds.

It's like the shackles on the man's tongue fell off, and now he could speak plainly. *[pause]*

Deaf ears open up, and bonds fall off of tongues when Jesus commands them.

And it just points to His healing, liberating power. *[pauseeee]*

If He can do such a thing as that, don't you think He can bring healing and freedom elsewhere?
[pause]

Through His work, He has brought the healing balm of forgiveness, and the freeing liberation of right standing before God...

This is our Lord and Savior who does things well, and not only that, but He does *all* things well.
[pauseeee]

Have you ever met someone who could only do 1 thing well?

It's like the person who is good at taking things apart, but not good at fixing them, and putting them back together.

And you are thinking, "Yes, I'm glad that you are good at taking things apart, but I asked you to fix it!" *[pauseeee]*

Jesus is no one-trick-pony, for the crowd proclaims that he has done *all* things well. *[pauseeeee]*

It seems as though this group of people has seen (or at least heard of) more of Jesus' ministry than just this one miracle for them to say this.

So they have probably seen or heard of some of His other miracles and His teaching, and now they are putting it all together in astonishment, saying, "He has done all things well!" *[pause]*

Everything He did amazed them, everything He set His hand to excelled. *[pauseee]*

Just look at the testimony of Scripture...

Everything that God does is done well.

There's nothing that's like, "Yeahhh, that wasn't so good." *[pauseeee]*

That couldn't be said of us!

Some of the stuff we do is good, but not all.

A few things, yes, but all? *[pause]*

It just signals us outward, away from ourselves, to Him. *[pauseeee]*

He does these things (all of these things) *well*. *[pauseeee]*

Have you ever asked your young child to do some project, and they return and say, “OK, it’s done.”

But you go and look at what they did, and it’s not done well? *[pause]*

You may even say, “I told you to clean your bicycle, but it looks more dirty than before!”
[pause]

They may have said “done!” but it was not “done well”. *[pause]*

In contrast, Jesus does all things *well*. *[pause]*

This is because the God who made everything “very good” is the God here who “has done all things well”! *[pause]*

He is the good God, who does things well.

He is the perfect and all-powerful God, who does all things well—how could He not? *[pauseeee]*

We need to stop looking inward for answers and for solutions, rather, we need to look up to Him, who does all things well. *[pause]*

When you need wisdom for what to do in that tricky situation, look to the One who does all things well.

When you need strength for a task, go to the One who does all things well.

When you face an impossible-looking situation, cling to the One who does all things well.
[pauseeee]

You see, this text is leading us to consider this question...

Jesus does all things well, but does this lead to faith?

Now we don’t know for sure if this crowd of people actually believed in Jesus, or if they were only caught up in the hype of the miracle.

But what really matters is if this truth leads *you* to actually trust Him. *[pauseeee]*

For those who have never trusted in Jesus for salvation, “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”³

See your need and see your Savior. *[pause]*

³ 2 Corinthians 6:2.

You are a sinner, who deserves death and condemnation, but Jesus came and died on the cross, so that you could be forgiven and given eternal life.

Trust in Him alone as the only way to be made right with God, and to be reconciled to Him. *[pauseeee]*

For those of us who are believers, we need regular calls to trust Him more. *[pause]*

Does this word from Scripture lead you to deeper, stronger faith? *[pause]*

Does knowing that Jesus does all things well cause a spring of trust to rise up? *[pauseeeee]*

Consider the difference that what we learned can make in your life. *[pause]*

Imagine going through a trial. *[pause]*

You are at the end of your strength, sorrow fills your heart, the pain is great, you don't know how you are going to go on, and yet you still believe, "He does all things well". *[pauseeee]*

He truly does do all things well, but do you trust Him, that's the question. *[pause]*

He accomplished the work of redemption, so that we could be forgiven, no longer guilty, and become children of God.

I'd say that was done "well". *[pause]*

And guess what?

The Christ who "has done" all things well, is the Christ who "does" and "will do" all things well.

For doesn't the Bible say, "that for those who love God all things work together *for good*"?⁴
[pause]

Now that's a truth that should cause us to be "astonished beyond measure".

⁴ Romans 8:28 (italics is mine).