

REACHING OUT IN FAITH

Mark 6:53-56

- **Acts 15:1 NLT** While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

- **Acts 15:4-5 NLT** 4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. 5 But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

What were they saying or what did they mean?

- We are trained with hundreds of years of history so by sheer logic, we know more about this than you so you must listen to us
- We are God chosen people, not those Gentiles, so we have the right of inheritance to set the standards of salvation

Do we hear this today?

- I have the religious education, training and degrees
- I know what the Greek and Hebrew text really says and means
- I have had time to really study the minute details of the text
- I have the experiences that gives me the right to set the standards on what to believe

Do we hear this today?

- If you don't speak in tongues, then you have not had the second filling of the Holy Spirit and you are lacking spiritually, you are not complete
- If you speak in tongues, then you are following an arcane experience that stopped in the first century and you are fooling yourselves spiritually
- If you still struggle with sin, then you have not been fully saved because Jesus said He has set you free from sin

Do we hear this today?

- If you don't believe like me/us then you are less than a fully sanctified Christian
- In other words, we have it all figured out and you don't, so you are less than a Christian than we are
- We know, we don't have it all figured out, right
- If we are not careful, we will begin to let our relationship and witness slide simple because we don't know everything or as much as we think we should

- **Acts 15:19-21 NLT** 19 “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood. 21 For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”

- **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV** 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast
- **Mark 6:53-56**

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was “recognized Jesus”

- The most important/critical part of being a Christian is to be able to recognize Jesus
 - Recognize = To know, realize, come to understand
- Jesus says you are blessed beyond measure if you do
- It proves the work of the Holy Spirit in your life

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was
“recognized Jesus”

- **Matthew 16: 15-17 NLT** 15 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,[d] the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was “recognized Jesus”

- We need to identify who these people
 - These were not the religious leaders at that time
 - These were not the entitled, gifted, talented, socially blessed
 - They were the lowest people on the social ladder, born into poverty, servants, hurt and sick, outcasts, rejects of society, seen as little or no worth, burdens

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was
“recognized Jesus”

- We must first identify who these people were
 - They were led to believe their sickness or brokenness was a result of some sin either by them or their parents

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was
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- We must first identify who these people were
 - **John 9:1-3 NLT** 1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was
“recognized Jesus”

- We must first identify who these people were
 - They were not trained in great religious schools under important rabbis
 - But they were taught the Scriptures, even if it was an incomplete understanding of Scriptures

Vs. 54 tell us the first thing these people did was
“recognized Jesus”

- But notice they were the ones to recognize Jesus
 - Unlike Jesus’ hometown that wanted Jesus to prove Himself
 - Unlike the religious leaders of the time

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- This is where the Old Testament can give us some clearer insight into what these Jewish people were doing
- **Numbers 15:37-40 NLT** 37 The Lord said to Moses, 38 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- **Numbers 15:37-40 NLT** 39 You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by chasing after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. 40 Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God. 41 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the Lord your God.”

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- **Malachi 4:2a NLT** “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture
 - The word for wings is the same Hebrew word used for the hem or corners of a person’s garment, the place where the fringes were put

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- Hear what their actions are saying
 - We don't have it all figured out, but Jesus is the one promised by God that would come with healing in His wings and by touching the fringe I am exercising my faith in Jesus
 - Their faith was not in the fringe or tassels, but the person of Jesus Christ

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- They reached out in immature faith and God blessed their faith
- Each one of us have left blessings on the side of the road simple because we have talked ourselves out of simply reaching out in our faith when Jesus passed by
- Do you have enough faith so simply touch the fringe of Jesus' robe?

Vs. 56 tells us they stretched out their immature faith and touched the edge of His cloak

- **Numbers 21:8-9 NLT** 8 Then the Lord told him, “Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!” 9 So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

Vs. 55-67 tells us there was great excitement because Jesus was close

- **Vs. 56** They ran throughout the region telling everyone Jesus was close and where to find Him
 - They didn't just tell them, but moved them, in their current condition, so they would have the opportunity to touch Jesus' fringe

Vs. 55-67 tells us there was great excitement because Jesus was close

- They begged Jesus for permission to touch the edge of His cloak
- All who reached out in faith were healed
- I get the picture it was something like this



Vs. 55-67 tells us there was great excitement because Jesus was close

- **Malachi 4:2a NLT** “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture

Vs. 55-67 tells us there was great excitement because Jesus was close

- When was the last time you were really excited about being in the presence of Jesus, if ever?
- When was the last time tears streamed down your face simply because you were in the presence of Jesus and felt the Holy Spirit move in your spirit?
- What are you keeping bottled up inside and why not release it today?
- Ask the blind man about Jesus, he saw it all

Wonderful miracles of Jesus in Mark 6 and 7

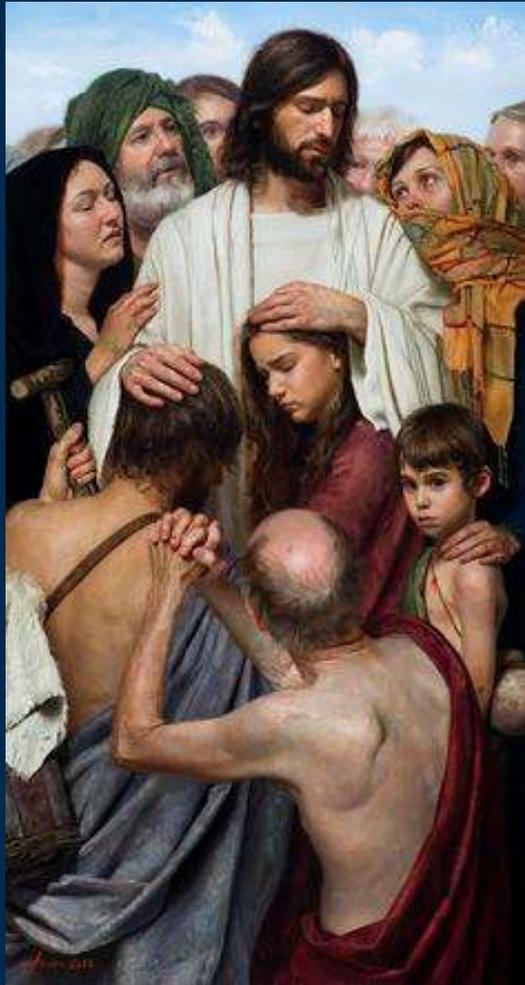
- Healing of the demon possessed man
- Raising of the dead girl and healing the woman bleeding for 12 years
- Feeding the 5,000 men
- Calming the massive storm
- All demonstrate the authority, power, majesty of Jesus
- That He is the unique Son of God

Wonderful miracles of Jesus in Mark 6 and 7

- But today we read about the Son of Righteousness rising with healing (salvation) in his wings
- Other than His resurrection, this is Jesus' greatest miracle
- We see His compassion on display for all

Wonderful miracles of Jesus in Mark 6 and 7

- The Son of Righteousness still rises today
 - Not in the same way
 - He has nothing more to prove
 - But He still rises for those today, who will reach out in simple faith and touch the edge of His garment
 - And if you are doubting this morning



**GO ASK THE BLIND MAN,
HE SAW IT ALL**

Mark 6:53-56