

**Isaiah 35, Say to those who have an anxious heart...** Does that apply to any of us? We are all waiting for the world to get back to normal, what's next, will things ever be like the good ol' days in 2019. Then every family too has issues. **Say to those who have an anxious heart, be strong, fear not!** But see that the strengthen is not your own, that you can remain steadfast, He is your strength, strong only in His works. Nothing to fear.

I understand proper etiquette for texting is you need to respond within 20 minutes, 1 hour tops or its rude. Considering my infrequent, poor texting, if you send me a text, I will respond -but be prepared to be offended. (I'm not sure I care.) Apparently one of the rudest things is if people send you a text, are waiting for a response, can see the indication you're typing but you not send anything. Then there's the double text message. We need to be careful not to get sucked into this culture of instant gratification, instant results, responses, instant answers -even impose that on God.

You see a man today healed, apparently an immediate plea, immediate action by Jesus. But we don't know, perhaps the man had been praying about this his whole life.

Jesus comes to the region of the Decapolis -of 10 cities. Archeological evidence is this was a pagan area, lots gods, idols of Zeus, Artimus, Hercules unearthed there. Still, the news of Jesus reached them, that He could heal. This story of people: Jesus rescues, filthy pagans. They begged Jesus to heal this man; Jesus makes special effort. It seems odd,

Jesus takes the man privately, spits on His hands, touches the mans tongue, ears -be open. But why? Why all the ritual? We know Jesus could've just willed it to happen, it happens; just said **Ephaphtha**, its done. Why does Jesus go through all the ceremony? The finger in the ears, the spit, all this stuff. You know why? I don't know either; but it's there for us to meditate in the text, and once again see our God is a God of liturgy, ritual, of ceremony.

You see here -really quite amazing: Jesus is pleased to deal with each one of us; takes the time with each person differently. He has a whole world to save -so much time on 1 person. Amazing. He takes each one of you aside from the crowd; gives each one what you need, unique work unto you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one church, but we're different, different gifts, different sufferings, different lessons to learn.

If you're a parent you know this, each child is dealt with, handled differently, unique. Jesus deals with each of you. Knowing exactly what you need; what you don't need; knows better than what you think is best for you. The Lord carries you, drags you through this lives in different ways. None of our lives

look the same. None of our history, the same. None of our suffering and joys the same. And Jesus knows it. He uses it to bless you.

There are times you look at others and think “I wish that was me” or “I’m glad that wasn’t me.” God handles us in different things in life. All the joys. All the sufferings. All the pains. All the lessons. All the gifts. Your life is especially curated by God to give you exactly what you need.

Yet, your ears, tongue, likewise impeded, with unkind words, gossip, lies, manipulation. Repent of your filth. Just as with that man, supernatural for you. Ears to hear this Word, your tongue to confess, opened by God.

They’re astonished beyond all measure; the name of Jesus is praised even in area of Decapolis. They make the good confession. **He has done all things well.** Your confession as well. Yet how often we do not live, act like it.

You look around at your life, others; you think this is not true. That Jesus has done some things well and other things He has done not so good, even done them poorly. He doesn’t come close to texting us back or getting us an answer like google. That we would’ve done things differently or dare we think, better. We would’ve avoided that sickness. We would have avoided that cancer. We would’ve arranged things different, avoided suffering. By faith we stand and confess that Jesus has done all things well. For He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Himself up for us all, has also given us all things. **He has done all things well**, all means all, all things well for you.

This unique Christian perspective on life, this world. Because the Son is sacrificed for you, conquered your sin and death, gives eternal life right now, everything that comes in this life, ultimately comes to you... as gift. I know, it doesn’t always feel like it. Even the bad stuff, the suffering. Even the loss. Gifts can hurt. Everything you have comes from the hand of Jesus who loves you uniquely; confess by faith with them in the Decapolis, **Jesus has done all things well.**

Isaiah 35. Last Sunday, Feast of the Martyrdom of John the Baptist. When John in prison, soon to die, sent His disciples to Jesus with questions, Jesus sent them go tell John: Isaiah 35. I’ve been sent here to tell you: Isaiah 35.

**Say to those who have an anxious heart. Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance. He will come, save you.** With those words, you Lord would have you take our eyes, your ears, your mouth, off the concerns of your day. **Fear not! He has done all things well.** Denies you nothing for your good. **He has done all things well**, not merely a daily promise, not merely better than you deserved, but better than you could have ever expected or see or understand, uniquely unto you.