

Mark 7:31-37
A Right Perspective

Typically speaking: Mother's day gets a lot more attention in our society than Father's day!

A) For instance Mother's day was instituted by the U.S. congress in 1914 to always take place on the 2nd Sunday in May. – **A day to honor moms**

B) 58 YRS LATER – President Richard Nixon – in 1972 to be exact declared that the third Sunday in June would be set aside to Honor Dads –

1) **It Took 58 yrs later for Dads to get a little respect.**

C) AT&T reveals that On mother's day – **that phone calls home reach an all time high.**

1) Do you know when the most **collect calls happen?**
You guessed – **FATHERS DAY!**

Mother's day: \$162 million dollars are spent on Mother's day cards – Father's day: \$ 110 million – 52 million dollar difference

A) Yes but Pastor Rob – Your mom is the one who brought you into this world

B) True – but dad is the one who can take you out of this world.

C) Mother's day we go all out – make a Reservation at the Fanciest Restaurant we can get into.

1) **Father's day: let the old man fire up the Barbecue**

Even in the church world – we tend to take Mother's day more seriously

A) Mother's day PC to do something special – special message – special attention –

B) **I agree whole heartily with that** – Moms are special –

1) Ladies in the church make up the heart Of the Church – sensitivity – emotion – care –

C) I would hate to see what this church would look like without your influence.

D) As a pastor – you give a good mother's day sermon and it can go a long way!

But as a Pastor – to be honest – I have always paid more attention to father's day.

A) This is why? Men are supposed to lead in the church – in the home.

B) **If the men are right the church is going to be right**

1) If the men are right ... the home is going to be right – our community is going to be right!

C) So when Father's day rolls around – I am usually praying hard –

1) Lord what do you want to say to the men @ CCV?

D) This week was no exception: Break from Mark – something else – Jacob, Job, Father Abe ?

The whole week the Lord kept bringing me back to this text in the gospel of Mark.

A) which just so happens to be right where we left off in our journey through Mark's gospel.

B) Title is "A right Perception!"

One night a wife found her husband standing over their newborn baby's crib. **Silently she watched him.** As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face **a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, skepticism.**

He would stand back, shake his head and say, "Amazing," while smiling from ear to ear.

Touched by **his unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused**, her eyes glistened as she slipped her arms around him, whispering in his ear - "**A penny for your thoughts,**"

To which he responded - "Isn't it amazing!" -. "When you take the time and really look close, how can anyone **make a crib like that for only \$89.99!**"

Probably not the right perception in that Moment!

Having the right perception can be the key to everything –

Consider this story in Mark ch. 7

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. 32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. 33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. {He tells them to tell no one and they tell everyone – He tells us to tell everyone and we tell NO ONE!}

37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. {And He still does} He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

This is a remarkable story: A total transformation takes place in this guy's life. – He goes from not being able to speak to speaking eloquently.

A) Sub title: - What every Dad needs to know –

B) We will Definitely see some application for all of us – but especially those of us who are fathers

C) For instance – our similarity to this man!

C)Text says v. 32 that He was deaf and had a speech impediment – actually – stronger than that –

It wasn't that he couldn't speak correctly it was that he couldn't speak at all.

D)In Isaiah 35:6 speaking of when the Messiah would come on the scene it says **that the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb shall sing!"**

1)And in the Septuagint –the translation of the OT Hebrew into Greek – Dumb is translated for this word Impediment.

E) Notice V.37 seems to supports this idea because **his friends are astonished when he is healed and they say: , "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute or dumb to speak."**

Mute or dumb is translated – unable to speak - wanting the faculty of speech

A)They are not amazed because he can hear – because they can't see that really

B)they are amazed that he can speak Plainly or distinctly – or eloquently!

C)He has never been able to communicate with them at all.

D)So the man was Deaf and Dumb- need I say more!

Now before you are offended by how many times has your wife said to you, you just don't listen or you just don't understand

A)Sometimes we use that to our advantage “honey I'm sorry I didn't understand what you meant or I'm sorry I didn't hear you right”

B) Now the only guy here who really gets away with this is Tom Frazee, wears a hearing aid that doesn't work right

C) Or how about this one that you're talking to your teenage daughter and she says **“Dad you just don't Get it!”**

1)You are thinking – You are Right – I don't

And One of the things –I love about this story is that Jesus does a total transformation on this guy and He can do that on us!

A)So in order for us to have the right perception – What does every man need to know? – Three things

B)**Points directed to the Dads** – but these points apply to us all –

1)Cross – gender – cross – generational

C) So what does every Dad need to know?

#1 He has friends that will point him to and bring him to Jesus!

Guys, we are never meant to go this alone! –

A)The Christian life is a Battle – we need a **Band of brothers to help us – do this right!**

B)Satan knows if he can take out dad – if he can get dad so busy he neglects his spiritual responsibilities – **the family as a whole will suffer.**

1)The family will be destroyed!

A study done by Focus on the Family reported that, if a child is the first in a family to become a Christian, there's a 3.5% probability that the other members of the family will become Christian. If a mother is the first, there's a 17% probability.

But, if the father is the first member of a family to become a Christian, there's a 93% probability that the other members of the family will follow him into the faith.

C)SAD THAT - In some churches the Pastor takes father's day off – because attendance is lower - Dads want to take father's day Sunday off.

1)So glad this church is not like that.

D)One study revealed –

If a father did not attend church, only 2% of his children regularly attended as adults, even if the mother was faithful in her attendance. If the father did attend church, 44% his children attended regularly as adults, even if the mother didn't attend at all.

Guys because of that we are the target points in the enemy's attack – and we need the encouragement of other bros – to stay strong.

A)One man was talking to his buddy at work - his buddy said – *You seem down today – what is up? Wife and I got into a fight last night.*

B)The bummer is – **Every time She gets historical – Don't you mean Hysterical –**

1)No historical – she brings up every rotten thing I ...done

C)Now your buddy might say: – *if my wife did that to me I would put her in her place –*

1)**wrong kind of friend**

D) **“I feel for you – tell you what – How about I buy you a drink today after work”**

1)Wrong kind of friend

Our Flesh likes to take the path of least resistance –

A)Our flesh wants to be patronized –

B)My flesh likes it when someone tells me – *oh it is not that bad or you are a good person*

C)My flesh – ego – loves it when someone comes to my defense and says –**Yea that is not fair – you deserve better than that**

1)MOST OF THE TIME THAT IS NOT WHAT WE NEED TO HEAR!

No, you need a friend who is going to be honest with you – Call Sin/ sin – not make excuses

A) You need a friend that is going to point you to Jesus – bring you to Him !

B) Brothers – iron sharpens iron –

C) Men's groups – 200 men – church of 1500 adults

C) We need friends that will **go to battle with us – stand in the gap** for us when the battle is raging.

D) Being alone in the battle is the worst feeling in the world.

E) Sometimes – we end up in that place because – we choose to stand alone.

1) Listen men – you are the most susceptible to the attacks of the enemy when you are depressed and when you are tired.

You need friends who will stand in the gap for you!

A) What I love about this story – It says his friends brought him to **Jesus and begged** Jesus to touch him.

B) Reoccurring theme in this gospel, We keep seeing this – people begging Jesus to touch and heal

C) Keep seeing this Desperation over and over again

1) Seen over and over again that **Desperation moves the heart of Jesus**

D) I really believe that Jesus is wanting this Church to become more desperate for souls – desperate for the lost.

E) Relational Evangelism is always the most effective.

1) How many of you here were brought to church – brought to the Lord through the influence of a friend or family member?

So what does every Dad need to know?

A) #1 Every dad needs to know – He has friends who will bring him to Jesus

Friends who will stand in the gap in prayer.

B) Tell him what He needs to hear not what He wants to hear!

#2 Every Dad needs to Know that He has a Savior in Jesus who does all things well!

A) At this point I want us to look at Jesus and how He deals with this man – gain some insight into His heart for us.

B) As well as how to deal with our own kids –

1) Own trying situations

C) So I want to key in on 4 things that Jesus does with this man – application for our lives.

1ST Christ's Look

A) V.34 tells us He looked up to heaven!

B) First look ! Where do we look first?

1) You want to have the right perception? You want to handle things well?

C) First look always needs to be up – First look needs to be to heaven.

1) To your Father – who loves you dearly

Jesus' life was marked by prayer!

A) Constant communion –

B) Prayer times versus praying without ceasing

C) The number one sin in the church today is not materialism, not sensuality or pornography – **it is Prayerlessness**

1) Those other things are merely the symptoms - If we could get more consistent in prayer – those other things would – go away

D) **Prayerlessness is the fundamental sin of the busy Christian**- and most of us fall into that category of being too busy!

Precious Church – fellow Brothers – Dads – We have got to get a handle on our prayer lives.

A) Prayer is the #1 sign of our dependency upon God – for everything

B) Jesus was a man of Prayer!

2nd Christ's Sigh

A) Sigh = to let out one's breath audibly, as from sorrow, from weariness, or from relief.

B) Lots of sighs this week – various reasons –

C) Everyone sigh – right now – just let it out

D) A sigh can be a good thing – My wife sighs a lot – what was that for?

1) Nothing – just needed to sigh

Jesus sighed – it was a symbol of His compassion for this man and his need

A) What this text is teaching us – seen it before is that **Our Lord's compassion was part of the healing process.**

B) His compassion for lost souls – His compassion for the hurting – His compassion for lives – affected by sin!

1) Jesus no doubt looked at this man – his condition and **thought this is the result of the fall.**

C) Our world is filled with pain, suffering, disease, evil – because when Adam sinned in the garden – **THAT POINT – Humanity was plagued**

1) The ramifications of sin would be far reaching.

D) Jesus saw the need – and sighed – it wearied His heart – and it still does

Romans 8:26 tells us that the HS – the very spirit of Christ living in our hearts makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.

A) Still sighs – groans over sin – over the stuff – we get ourselves into – because it breaks His heart.

B) **He groans for us** – because loves us so much! – Missing out on His best - **Always His reaction**

1) Dads you get this – One of your kids messes up – at first you might **groan in anger** because of what they did.

C) But it quickly moves to a groan, **a sigh of sorrow** – Because You know – they are mainly hurting themselves!

The heart we need as a church - Jesus was moved with compassion – saw the pp like sheep without a shepherd. Moved = He ached

A) R. Kent Hughes “When the Church sighs like him, in genuine compassion, power comes to the hurt.”

B) 1st His look / 2nd His sigh / 3rd His touch.

“True compassion doesn’t just feel, it reaches out!”

A) Jesus took this man aside – He touched his ears

B) Jesus was finding a way to communicate to this man – **touching his ears was a way of saying – I understand – something needs to happen.**

C) Jesus spits – probably on his finger and touches the man’s tongue.

1) Gross!!!! - In that culture – Romans believed that Saliva had some medicinal properties.

D) So again – the touch was a means of communicating – I am going to heal you. –

Same is true for us dads – We can communicate with a touch!

A) Studies have been conducted showing that children who receive love and physical affection from their fathers are **less likely to be anxious, insecure, as well as hostile and aggressive.**

B) Right away some of you are thinking – Pastor Rob – you are asking me to be something I am not. –

1) **I am not an affectionate guy.**

2) Well, Jesus did not save you to keep you the way that you are. He saved you to make you more like Himself.

C) But we have to be willing to change! Unfortunately many men are not.

1) Husband and wife – marriage counseling – Never tells me he loves me

“Told her 20 yrs ago when I married her and if anything changes.... Know!

Think about this man!

A) What if when Jesus spit on His finger – and reached up to touch the man's tongue – **He grabbed His hand – You are not touching me.**

B) In order for the transformation to take place in this man's life – He had to **Humble himself** – in front of Jesus

1) Ok I will let you touch my tongue with Spit

C) Guys are we willing to be humble before Jesus so that transformation takes place in our lives?

Will you let Christ touch you?

A) Or do you tend to keep Him at arms length – only allow Him to go so far with you.

B) Transformation takes time! – Continual touches by our Redeemer who does all things well.

C) The key to this man's healing was in 4th Christ's word – Be opened – **CREATOR – speaking to cells**

D) His word has transforming Power!

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

C) **Bulletin: Hebrews 12:1,2** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”

Christian life is a Race – not a sprint – over quickly – Marathon.

A) Mile after mile it goes on. –

B) **Fatherhood is a Marathon as well** – Last a long time. Being a dad doesn't end when they turn 18 or when they graduate or when they leave home.

1) Sandy Adams who was a very engaged father – kids growing up. **“I have parented more since my kids left home than I did when they were there.”**

C) Guys the **race takes endurance** – perseverance to keep on going – keep on staying engaged – involved.

1) Don't check out, don't leave it to mom to do it for you.

You Run with endurance – looking unto Jesus!

A) The point of this exhortation **is NOT primarily** to run looking AT Jesus as **our example** of how we are to run!

B) **Because quite frankly – you are not Jesus, you will never be Jesus –**

C)The primary point of the exhortation is to Run looking **unto Jesus as the author and the finisher of your faith.**

UNTO = Looking to receive something from Him

D)It means **He is our supplier – It is His sufficiency in our lives that enables us to Run.**

1)He is the author of your faith – He began it – He will be the finisher.

It is believing that He who began a good work in you will be faithful to, Repeat – WILL BE FAITHFUL – to complete it –

A)Sustenance from Him – Your life support – your wisdom.

B)More time you spend with Jesus – His Word – power to transform

C)Pray – this time next year it would be said of every man here what was said of the Disciples –

Tell they had been with Jesus!

Every dad needs to Know

#1 He has friends that will bring Him to Jesus

#2He has a Savior who does all things well.

#3 He needs to run the race with endurance looking unto Jesus.