Mat 92

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Conference slide

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As we noted last message the TLJC was in the process of healing two blind men who were not only born again Bels…they were very positive and confident in their relationship with the Messiah.

We noted the emphasis on the word of God being the important principle not the miracles…signs and wonders.

Mat 9:28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus \*said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They \*said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

/Mat 9:29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “**It shall be done to you according to your faith.”\**

According to their faith…what was their faith…. strong & confident!

They could not see miracles or signs and wonders all they could do was hear the gospel of Christ.

All these blind men had was the word.

/God can part the Red Seas, stop a storm with a single word, breath life into a dead body…but when it comes to mankind’s free will being involved, it becomes a team effort!\

That is why you hear many pastor’s say it is easier for God to turn water into wine and raise the dead then it is for God to reconcile a broken marriage.

Mankind’s free will needs to be active in the plan of God.

ELABORATE

Faith comes by hearing the word it is impossible to please God without faith.

/Heb 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please Him***,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* **He is a rewarder of those who seek Him**.\

These two blind men had faith that worked in conjunction with TLJC deity.

ELABORATE

Moses parted the Red Sea with faith & Noah built the ark with faith. Joshua defeated enemies with faith…Abraham showed faith by putting his son Isaac on the alter!

/Mat 9:30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus **sternly warned** (*embrimaomai*) them: **“See that no one knows *about this!***”\

EMBRY-MON-OH-MY

This term is used in the sense of urgency and a very strong statement. This not the Lord calmly telling these men….*hey keep it to yourself* - this is TLJC demanding them to keep their mouths shut.

Often times TLJC told people not to go out and speak about a miracle and other times it appears He allowed people to speak to the crowds & the leadership of the Jewish sect.

 We can look at that contradiction today so we clearly understand why He did that.

Mat 9:31 But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land.

Mat 9:32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

Mat 9:33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, *and were* saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

Mat 9:34 But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

One of the reasons TLJC may have told these blind men to keep quiet is to protect those closest to Him.

Remember TLJC became popular among the majority but very unpopular among the Jewish and Roman leadership very quickly.

/Capernaum where Peter lived became the dwelling place of Jesus and many scholars believe Jesus stayed in Peter’s house. Everyone knew Jesus and where He lived therefore He was very protective of Peter’s family.\

Now we also need to remember that many of the local fishermen and families knew Jesus because during the majority of His adult life He had chosen to start living & working in and around Capernaum.

Even before He appeared to John the Baptist at the Jordan River….Jesus was known by many people in certain areas.

He was known as Joseph the Carpenter’s son.

This familiarity is actually another reason TLJC told certain people to remain silent about healings & miracles.

Jesus had problems in places like Nazareth and Capernaum because people knew Him.

Nazareth where He grew up as a boy was a village of probably 500 people when Jesus lived there.

/Mar 6:4 Jesus said to them, “**A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown** and among his own **relatives** and in **his *own* household**.”

(Mat 13:57)\

Familiarity breeds contempt.

People in this region knew this young laborer… in fact there were probably houses and pieces of furniture that TLJC helped build in Capernaum and now here He is performing miracles and claiming to be the Messiah.

Another reason Jesus told certain people to keep hush hush about His healing works-

/Familiarity breeds contempt. Those who are closest to us, know our history, our failures and successes. They can often be the ones who later undermine our authority and cast doubt & division in our path.\

Jesus kept a close group around Him even though He was available to speak with everyone…TLJC didn’t attempt to become popular by being everybody’s best friend…being the BFF to each and every person…He often secluded Himself.

There is a lesson in this for all Bels but certainly for the leadership within a church.

What happens with familiarity?

I know you!... I remember when you did this…. I remember when you failed at that…why would God use you after all the stupid stuff you did when you were younger.

Believe me I can relate to this more than many of you may know.

I have some old friends and even family members who don’t even know what I teach and they could care less that I am teaching BD. In fact they would be the first to tell you not to listen to me because of something I said or did in my past.

This happened to TLJC in a few areas where people thought they knew exactly who He was.

/Mar 6:3 **Is not this the carpenter**, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And **they took offense at Him**.\

People who are too close to you who lack spiritual maturity will often be the ones who attack you if you begin to operate at a higher level within the plan of God.

/Jhn 6:42 They were saying, “**Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph**, whose father and mother we know? **How does He now say**, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”\

When God calls a Bel to step up to a higher level in their spiritual walk their past and failures have no significance as to where God plans on taking them and many who know them or have been close to them will never except that new position. REPEAT!!!

Yet we are all new creatures in Christ!

/2Cor 5:17 Therefore **if anyone is in Christ**, he is **a new creature**; the **old things passed away**; behold, new things have come.\

You will actually find that God will use the most unlikely people and unlikely circumstances to move His plan forward so that no one can look back and get human credit…there will be no doubt that it was God at work not mankind!

REPEAT!

Why do you think TLJC came as a poor carpenter’s son from a neighborhood nobody cared about…instead of the son of a Scribe…a Pharisees or the son of a Sadducee?

Look what the Apostle Philip tells Nathanael the future Apostle.

/Jhn 1:46 Nathanael said to him, “Can **any good thing come out of Nazareth**?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”\

God rarely does what mankind expects.

Many cases God does the opposite of what mankind would do in any given situation.

/Another reason the Lord told the blind men to remain silent after they were healed was they were overly zealous which means they would lack discernment concerning what the circumstance called for.\

New Bels often get overly excited and they go out and hit people over the head with the Bible instead of learning how to evangelize properly and talk to Unbel’s so as not to push them away!

They also were also oblivious to what TLJC was trying to do in protecting His followers and their families very early on.

/When the emotions run high, immature Bels can sometimes speak out of turn or involve themselves in situations that are above their doctrinal IQ.\

What I mean by this is that their excitement and openness toward the truth they are just starting to understand can sometimes put blinders on their decision making skills.

You ever have someone who did or said something that caused a lot of extra grief and confusion to a difficult situation but that person meant well.

Their heart was in the right place yet they spoke about something they didn’t know enough about or acted in a way they thought was good for the situation but it only inflamed it.

That is what I am talking about.

This is the exact case we have here with the two healed blind men who TLJC was so firm with…when He told them do not say anything about how He healed them.

/New Bels may not be prepared for evangelizing nor are they in a position ready for authority or to be involved in making pertinent decisions about the ministry. Every one handles the excitement of being born again differently.\

Some new Bels are not ready for anything but the pure milk of the word of God…learning basics and coming to find out how God wants to use them.

The Apostle Paul taught Timothy about the way he should go about establishing church leadership such as deacons & church leaders.

/1Tim 3:10 These men **must also first be tested**; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.\

When you think about familiarity think about how a teenage disrespects or rebels against the authority of a parent…I’m talking about a good parent who is trying to be a good role model.

That teenager thinks…I know my mom or dad…I know that they are not perfect I know they did this or that…I know their dirty little secrets and failures, and so they buck against the authority because they are too familiar. I would guess that about 75% of time this is the issue with rebellious teens who come from a good home.

/Familiarity breeds contempt. It will erode respect for authority in any organization (family, church or business) this is also the case in close relationships.\

It is a slow moving cancer that can breed into conversations and involve many people if you do not get a handle on it quickly.

Authority is respected because it is what the Plan of God calls for not because the person in authority is perfect.

You respect authority because you respect God.