

God Wants to Heal the Deaf

Mark 10:51

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.
The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”*

The next significant story about God speaking to my heart took place in to a town called Charleroi in western Pennsylvania. I was doing our conference speaking on prayer. Every weekend I was in a different church speaking on prayer and encouraging people to believe God for great things. I had been doing this for a number of years. In Charleroi I had met with the pastor, who was an acquaintance of mine. We talked about the conference. He told me about the church and what had taken place many years before over the charismatic movement that split the church. He cautioned me not to do anything charismatic in these meetings. I assured him that I was not a Pentecostal or charismatic, at least not in my perception.

The service began with wonderful worship. The songs were anointed and moving. There was one particular song that was sung and it was the song just before the message. The words went like this:

*“Lord, hear our cry. Come heal our land
Breath life into these dry and thirsty souls
Lord, hear our prayer. Forgive our sin
And as we call on Your name
Would You make this a place
For Your glory to dwell*

Chorus:

*Open the blind eyes. Unlock the deaf ears
Come to Your people As we draw near
Hear us from heaven. Touch our generation
We are Your people Crying out in desperation*

As they were singing they repeated that verse over and over again. I was worshipping, preparing my heart for the message of the morning. My message was not about healing. My message was about prayer. But while I was worshipping the voice of the Lord came very clearly to my mind. He said. “I want you to tell people I want to heal them.” I responded, “Lord, that's not permitted here. The pastor has asked me not to do that.”

A second time the Lord spoke and said, “No, I want you to invite people to be healed and specifically I want you to invite them to be healed of their hearing

loss. I want to unlock deaf ears.” I argued with the Lord, “Lord I can’t do that. The pastor has asked me not to do anything charismatic and I need to obey him.”

The third time the Lord spoke it was very clear that God was speaking to my heart. Just before I stepped up for the message the Lord spoke again, “You know my voice and I am instructing you. I want you to stand up and tell people I want to heal those who are deaf and those who have hearing loss.”

By the time I stood in the pulpit I was still wrestling with God, but my heart was burning. I knew what I needed to do. First, I apologized for what I was about to do. I explained that I had never done this before, but I was being urged to do so by the Holy Spirit. Then I told them that the Lord had spoken to me and He had repeated it at least three times, “I want to heal those here this morning that have hearing difficulties.”

As I started to speak the words just flowed out of me. I described the hearing loss, the ringing in the ears, the dizziness and other symptoms the Lord was indicating He wanted to heal. I said, “Without further ado, I’m going to pray for the hearing impaired this morning that the Lord would open your ears.” I did so briefly and moved on with the service.

I thought no more about that until after the service was over. People came to the altar. People were being prayed for and being revived and were rededicating their lives to the Lord.

No sooner was the service over than an elderly man came running over to me and said, “Pastor Dick, Pastor Dick! I have to tell you what the Lord has done.” Then he proceeded to tell me that he had arrived at the service with his wife and realized that his hearing aid was not working. He hadn’t replaced the batteries. He said it was very frustrating because in the early part of the service he couldn’t hear what was going on. He couldn’t understand the music. He couldn’t understand what people were saying. He reported that he was really distraught that he wouldn’t be able to hear what my message was. When I stood up and said, “The Lord said I want to heal those that have hearing difficulties today.” He exclaimed, “I knew that the Lord was speaking to me and the Lord wanted to heal my ears!” When you prayed I raised my hand and received the healing that I needed. Immediately my hearing aid didn’t start working, but my ears started working. I took my hearing aid out and I could hear clearly the entire service. Thank you for obeying the Lord.

Another man came forward after most of the people had left. He also identified with being a man of hearing loss. He said, “What you said on the platform was exactly what I said to my wife on the way to church. You described word for word

what I told my wife about my hearing.” Evidently I had said something about the ringing in the ears and the deafness that comes and goes and described him exactly. “So when you said that, I knew that God was speaking to my heart. I knew that God wanted to heal my hearing.”

“But,” he confessed, “I was not healed this morning because I have lost my faith. I can’t believe God for healing anymore.” He explained to me that he had lost his faith in the Lord. He had a grandson who had cancer and they had prayed for years and asked God to heal him. They went to healing conferences and trusted the Lord to heal his young body. But God did not heal him and that young child died. He explained that when his grandson died his faith in God's healing power also died.

He went on to tell me that he didn't come forward because he couldn't believe the Lord anymore. He was weeping as he told me this. I told him, “Let's pray anyway. A man came to Jesus with his sick son and begged Jesus saying, ‘Lord I believe. Help my unbelief.’ Let me pray that the Lord helps your unbelief and restores to you the joy of your salvation and restores to you the faith in what God can do. I prayed for the man. I took his name down so I could continue to pray for him. The service ended, we had a light lunch, followed by an afternoon conference with another 2 to 2 1/2 hours of lectures.

I was fearful of what was going to happen with the pastor after this, even though we saw great movement of the Spirit of God in that church service and obviously the anointing of the Lord was upon everything that was done. I was afraid the pastor was going to come back to me and scold me, or at least report me to the District Superintendent as not being submissive to the authority that was given to him, but he did not.

It was months later I got a letter from the pastor. When I saw the letter I was concerned about what I was going to read. I opened the letter. He reviewed what we had talked about prior to the conference and his expectation that I should not do any “woo woo” stuff or charismatic things in the service. He acknowledged that I disobeyed and had gone ahead and done so anyway. Then he said it was okay, what I had done was in order and certainly proper and appropriate. He had heard about one man that was healed and another man that was hoping to trust the Lord for his healing.

But the reason he was writing was because there was another man in that service that he knew nothing about. He was an executive in a large corporation. He had recently started coming to their church and had been trusting the Lord for a miracle in his life. Unknown to the pastor, this man had a hearing problem. He had been overlooked for promotions in his business because of his hearing loss.

He had his hearing tested and they found it was greatly diminished and because of that they would not give him a promotion. He said he was in the service that day when Pastor Dick described the hearing loss. He said that was him. He told his pastor, "I knew immediately the Lord was speaking to my heart that God wanted to heal my hearing. So, I too raised my hand as he prayed and asked the Lord to heal my ears and bring back my hearing.

He said it didn't happen instantaneously that day, but over a period of the next months his hearing was completely restored. He went back for testing and they found his hearing was perfect. Best of all, he got the promotion that was promised to him.

The pastor said, "This man came to me to tell me his testimony and in doing so he asked me to communicate with you to let you know that you were led by the Spirit of God that day. You did nothing inappropriate at all and he wanted to thank you for listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit.