

## Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

### G . The Second Tour of Galilee

#### 14. Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (Miracles #17 and #18)

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #100

MT 9.27-34 (Parallel Texts: None)

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men were following him, crying out, "Please have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them,

*"Do you really believe that I am able to do this?"*

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

29 Then he touched their eyes and said, *"I command that it be done to you as you have believed,"* 30 and their sight was restored.

Jesus commanded them sternly, *"Make sure that no one knows about this."*

31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. 33 After the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	In a Town by the Sea of Galilee, Probably Capernaum
Timeline	May--Oct. (Months 16 to 21)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tour of Galilee
Title	14. Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (Miracles #17 & #18)

#### COMMENT:

Miracles five and six on the second tour of Galilee climaxed the incredible sequence of six miracles that followed Jesus' teaching using parables. Of the three synoptic writers, Matthew alone included these two miracles, which both continued to emphasize the role of faith in a relationship with Jesus. The fifth miracle recapitulates the kind of faith that pleases God, and the sixth miracle in the series ends with the Pharisees demonstrating the kind of faith that rejects Jesus.

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In the healing of the two blind men Jesus stated the crucial principle that determines our relationship with God:

***"I command that it be done to you as you have believed."***

Most translations use the phrase: ***"Let it be done to you as you have believed."*** Jesus used a Greek grammatical structure here that does not exist in the English language. "Let it be done" is the simplest way to express the idea in English, but unfortunately this phrase does not convey that Jesus was actually using an imperative verb here—he was making a command. Therefore I have opted to translate the fuller meaning of what Jesus said: "I command that it be done to you..."

Jesus gave this same command regarding the Roman centurion who demonstrated the greatest faith the Lord had ever seen. It is God's determination of this principle that causes faith to be such a powerful force in each of us, whether it be placed in God, our selves, our friends, marriage partner, or business associates. We have all been created to live by faith, for we much rely upon things that we do not fully understand on a constant basis as beings with limited knowledge and understanding.

Jesus was commanding everything that he has made... all created reality... to serve his purpose of responding to the faith of those who place their full reliance upon him. He had already asked the men: ***"Do you really believe that I am able to do this?"***

Jesus was asking them if they had the kind of faith that continued to believe in his ability to grant their request—not just have a momentary kind of faith. He already knew that they did, but Jesus asked this question to emphasize and draw out their faith. When he made the command that it be done to them according to their faith he was teaching them, and all of us as well, that faith is the determinative factor that controls our relationship with God.

Jesus wants us all to live by our ongoing faith in him all the time—not just when we need specific things from him. God has determined that everything we experience in our relationship with him will be measured to us on the basis of our faith. This profound sequence of six continuous miracles in Jesus' second tour of Galilee was intended to highlight the nature of saving faith.

Remember the sequence of statements made by Jesus in these miracles that showcase the role of faith:

Miracle #13: ***"Where is your faith? Have you no faith?"***

Miracle #14: ***"just keep on believing."***

Miracle #16: ***"Your faith has made you permanently whole."***

Miracle #17: ***"Do you really believe that I am able to do this? I command that it be done to you as you have believed."***

Faith in the absolute sovereignty of God over all of his creation means that we believe that God does what he says. He alone has that ability. Therefore, when Jesus speaks he controls nature (the calming of the storm), the Devil and his legions of demons ("Legion" exorcism), death (raising of Jairus' daughter), disease (hemorrhaging woman), and all physical maladies (the blind and the mute).

There is nothing in all of visible and invisible reality that can resist what God says. Therefore, God has commanded that ***"it will be done to us as we have believed."*** That is HIS Word to us.

The Pharisees in miracle #18 show the opposite kind of faith—the kind that rejects Jesus by believing that he is not who he says he is, in spite of seeing his saving works. These Pharisees began the second tour by believing that Jesus was casting out demons by the power of the Devil, not the Holy Spirit. They went on to ask him for "signs" so that they could supposedly believe in him.

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On this very tour, just the day before, Jesus had cast out an entire legion of demons who had fallen down before him to acknowledge that he was the Son of God! Then, he had healed two blind men, and then cast out another demon and healed a man who was mute. The people were marveling that they had never seen or heard of anything like this before. Yet the Pharisees still believed that they were seeing the power of the Devil at work in Jesus. They expressed their faith with the words: "It is the by the Prince of Demons that he casts out demons."

What Jesus had commanded was therefore true for them-- they had believed that Jesus was demon-possessed. Their reality was controlled by what they believed. No matter what Jesus said or did from that point forward, these Pharisees would only be able to see the Devil in Jesus. They were hardened into an ongoing expression of the one sin for which there is no forgiveness--believing that Jesus is one with the Devil, and not anointed by the Holy Spirit.

### APPLICATION:

Faith is a very powerful thing. God has ordained that what we believe determines our relationship with him, and everything else he has made.

This truth was why Jesus was constantly exhorting his disciples to pay close attention to his word, and the kind of beliefs that they received into their minds and heart. We ALL live by faith. It is impossible not to do so. The six miracles in the second tour of Galilee teach us this truth. The only question is: What, or whom will we believe?

*How high a priority does your faith have in your life? Is it high enough?*

*What are you doing to consciously protect, and grow your faith? What is your faith-building plan?*