



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
24 – See That No One Knows About It

Announcements:

4/11 @6:30 -

Men's Discipleship

4/13 @7:00 -

Corporate

Prayer

4/14 @6:30 -

Grace Group

4/17 @7:00 -

Sunday School

4/17 @After Service

EASTER POTLUCK

ICE BREAKER: Are you more likely to give someone the benefit of the doubt or make assumptions about their motives?

READ: Matthew 9:27-31

In this passage Jesus heals two Blind men. As we looked at On Sunday, the main point here is to show the faith of the blind men (as men who could see without seeing) and show the lack of faith of the Pharisees (who could see but yet were still blind). But today I would like us to look closer at what happens at the end of this healing of the Blind men. "And Jesus sternly warned them, 'See that no one knows about it.' But they went away and spread his fame throughout all that district". And while one interesting thought centers around asking "why would Jesus want it kept a secret?", today I would like to look at the failure of these two men to follow Jesus' commands.

One way to understand this is to give these two men the benefit of the doubt. Place yourself in their shoes for just a moment. You have lived your life in darkness, Robbed of one of the most fundamental ways to interact with the world. Unable to see the beauty of the sunset or the faces of your loved ones, and in a moment your eyes are opened and you can see! How can you not tell every single person that you see (again, even seeing people is the great miracle here!) that you have been made whole by the Messiah! Taken this way the actions of these two men are not just understandable, but I would say they are also worthy of imitation. Contrast this with what our lives often look like. We have had our spiritual eyes opened. We can truly say "I once was blind but now I see". More than that, we have had our hearts of stone replaced with beating hearts of flesh. We once were "dead in our sins and trespasses" but now are "alive in Christ". And we too have been given a command, but not to keep quiet about it. No! We are called to "Go and make disciples of all nations." Why is it that we stay so silent?

DISCUSS: What are some reasons that we are not as quick to share the miracles that God has done in our lives with the world around us? What is the solution?

With that being said, I don't think the correct reading is to give these men the benefit of the doubt. Just because these men think they have reasons to disobey a command of Jesus, does not make it right. We should note the language here. Jesus "sternly warned them" to keep their mouths shut and verse 31 tells us "BUT" they told everyone and their mom. From O'Donnell's commentary:

I actually think that Matthew includes this verse as a subtle rebuke. For when blind they see. They see in whom they are to have faith (Jesus), they see what they are to ask for (his healing power), and they see how they are to approach Jesus (with bold faith). But once they see they stop living by faith, for faith is *always* manifested in obedience to Christ's commands, however countercultural and counterintuitive some of those commands may be. So, perhaps the point of verse 31 is that it is better to be blind and obedient than to see and disobey.

The life of faith is never easy, it often does not make sense (especially in the eyes of the world), but it is the only life truly worth living!

DISCUSS: As noted above, we are just as guilty of disregarding the commands of Jesus as these two men were. Why is obedience so difficult for us? How can we be reminded to follow ALL the commands of Christ?