

# Making Jesus Sigh

Mark 8:10-13

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- “He immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha. 11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation. 13 And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.”

# The Pharisees Constantly Demanded Jesus Prove Himself

- Mark 2:6-7, 16 - “And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone? ... 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?”
- Mark 3:22 - “And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, He has Beelzebub, and, By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”

# The Pharisees Constantly Demanded Jesus Prove Himself

- Mark 7:1-2 - “Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. 2 Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.”
- Matt. 16:1 - “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.”

# The Pharisees Constantly Demanded Jesus Prove Himself

- Joshua called for the sun to stand still as a sign that God would help
  - Joshua 10:12-14
- Gideon called for signs to confirm that he was truly called of God to lead Israel
  - Judges 6:14-21
- The Pharisees were hoping to trap Jesus to discredit Him before the people

# Jesus Sighed Deeply In His Spirit

- Mark 8:12 - “But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, ‘Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.’”
- “The anguish which Jesus experienced came from deep down inside him. Here the word ‘spirit’ is used in a sense not much different from heart or inner being.” (Hendriksen)
- “Or having deeply groaned -- so the word *αναστεναξά* properly means. He was exceedingly affected at their obstinacy and hardness of heart.” (Clarke)

# Jesus Sighs Deeply In His Spirit

- When men make rules in religion that cause harm to others
  - Mark 3:4-6 - “Then He said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill? But they kept silent. 5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, Stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.”

# Jesus Sighs Deeply In His Spirit

- When one's interest in religion focuses only on the exciting
  - Mark 7:31-37 - "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. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



# Jesus Sighs Deeply In His Spirit

- When believers do not have complete faith and trust in Him
  - John 11:35-42 - “Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, See how He loved him! 37 And some of them said, Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying? 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, Take away the stone. Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days. 40 Jesus said to her, Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

# Jesus Sighs Deeply In His Spirit

- When people take for granted God's blessings and care
  - Luke 19:41-44 - "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

# Jesus Sighs Deeply In His Spirit

- Because of their hard hearts, no sign would be given except His resurrection
  - Matt. 16:1-4 - “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. And He left them and departed.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- Jesus observes our behavior
  - Acts 9:4-5 - “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? 5 And he said, Who are You, Lord? Then the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- Jesus observes our behavior
  - Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19 - “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil...(Ephesus) 9 I know your works, tribulation, and poverty...(Smyrna) 13 I know your works, and where you dwell... (Pergamos) 19 I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience (Thyatira)”
  - Rev. 3:1, 8, 15 - “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead...(Sardis) 8 I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name... (Philadelphia) 15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. (Laodicea)”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When we refuse to obey His gospel, time after time
  - Matt. 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When our conduct differs little from the world
  - Matt. 5:20 - “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When our love is no different than that that of sinners
  - Matt. 5:44-46 - “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”



# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When the kingdom of God is not our priority in life
  - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When troubles move us to quit
  - Matt. 13:20-21 - “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When anxiety or materialism makes us unfruitful
  - Matt. 13:22 - “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When discouragement leads us to abandon prayer
  - Luke 18:1 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When human traditions displace the commands of God
  - Mark 7:7-9 - “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. 9 He said to them, All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When divisiveness defeats His prayer for unity
  - John 17:20-21 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When love of the world replaces love for His Father
  - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

# We Make Jesus Sigh Deeply

- When we make excuses
  - Luke 14:15-24 - “17 ...Come, for all things are now ready.’ 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. ”
  - “I can’t come to worship God today. But I’ll be at work tomorrow.”
  - “I can’t come to Bible study tonight, but I went out to eat last night.”
  - I tend to sigh deeply when I hear these excuses, too.



# Lessons

- From the Savior's sigh, we learn that Jesus cared deeply for those He was willing to heal (the deaf mute) and for those He was willing to save (Pharisees).
- In like fashion, Jesus is ready to save us from our sins and heal us of our souls' diseases.
- How will Jesus react to our response to Him? Will it be with great joy, or a deep sigh in His spirit?