

Scripture: The Law of God (Ex. 20) & Jeremiah 3
Singing: 200:1, 3 – 40:5-6 – 324:1-4 – 175:3-4 – 110:1-3

Matt. 13:52: *Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things **new and old**.*

A. Mark 7:31-37 speaks directly to those *still deaf and unable to speak*

1. We plunged ourselves into the deepest misery

2. This condition is not just *unfortunate*: it is incriminating!

3. What to do if you observe this condition in yourself?

B. Mark 7:31-37 also speaks to *God's backsliding saints*

The Backsliding Saint

I. How is backsliding revealed? II. How is the backsliding saint healed?

I. How is backsliding in the saints revealed?

A. All God's children are saints: 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1

B. Saints are sinners 'set apart' to glorify God in a changed life (Ezek. 36:26)

C. The life of the saint on the way to glory is a *battle of flesh and spirit* (Gal. 5:16)

1. The wish and expectation may be to be never *deaf or slow to speak*

2. Yet reality is that saints can become *tone-deaf with silent lips* (Ps. 51:15)

D. Becoming 'deaf to sin and silent about God' is the backsliding

1. Saints may continue to hear 'sin' in the *gross and bold sins*

2. But do we still hear 'sin' in how God defines sin?
 - a. example of 'respectable or acceptable' (minor) sins

 - b. are we still thinking about God's definition of sin: *missing the mark*?

E. The *backsliding* saint has re-defined some sin as 'little or acceptable'

1. Yet to Jesus all 'sin is sin' no matter how small

2. Though we may have become tone-deaf to our sins, God is not deaf!

II. How is backsliding healed?

A. There is but one way to be healed: *return to God in Christ*: Jer 3:1; 4:1

1. Labor at His feet for His healing touch on your conscience
 - a. revival (renewal) always begins with repentance

2. God gives ample encouragement to return to Him:
 - a. Jer. 3:12 – 3:22 – Hos. 13:9 followed with 14:1 & 4

- B. Go into your inner chamber with prayers like Ps. 26:2; 139:23-24
 1. Plead with Him to give you a spiritual x-ray *again*

 2. Beg Him to sense serious of sin for yourself and others (Eph. 4:29)

 3. Rest not till your tongue be touched with the warm and unrestrained testimony of Mark 7:36-37

Close: 'If the shoe doesn't fit this morning' remember to praise Him!