

SERMON ON MATT. 9: 27-35, THE HEALING OF TWO BLIND MEN AND A MUTE DEMONIAC

Our Lord again today heals the soul and the body and casts out demons. Two blind men receive their sight. Afterwards, a mute demoniac is brought by others who have faith in Jesus. The demoniac has to be brought, he cannot bring himself, because he cannot speak and he does not have the presence of mind to even know to go to Jesus. Jesus wants to teach us that faith and repentance and struggling against sin is required of all of us. For this reason Jesus asks those whom He heals if they have faith. Provoking the ill to say it out loud, Jesus establishes for us that these seekers of healing have faith. How many accounts of healing have we read in the Gospel when Jesus then forgives sins, admonishing the healed person to sin no more. In John chapter 5, Jesus heals a paralytic and when Jesus finds him in the temple, Jesus tells him, "Go and sin no more, lest something worse happen to you." In John chapter 8 Jesus saves a sinful woman from being stoned. He asks her, "Who is left to condemn you?" She answers, "No one." Jesus then tells her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." True health of body comes through health of the soul. And health of the soul comes through faith and repenting and struggling against sin. That is why Jesus is called the Divine Physician and why the church is called a hospital. Yes, Jesus loves us all and is merciful to all, but His love and mercy requires these two things from us, *faith* and *repentance*. The stronger our faith, and the deeper and more sincere our repentance, the greater does the Grace of God dwell within us. Jesus may not judge and condemn us, but neither can He come to us unless we willingly receive Him. The Pharisees refuse the healing and Grace of Jesus. They refuse to repent for their sins. Instead, they say that Jesus casts out devils by the prince of devils, which is a foolish, contradictory, and meaningless statement. The demoniac was not suffering from a natural illness, but was possessed by a demon, or demons. He was not in his right mind and could not speak, so Jesus casts out the demon and thereby heals the man, and we can surmise that this man is healed in his soul from sin as well. We can surmise this, because it is only as a result of sin does a man allow himself to become possessed by a demon. Jesus tells the two men who had been blind to tell no one. Jesus uses the occasion to teach us humility. In today's instance Jesus leads the two blind men away from the multitude into the house, and it is there, privately, that He performs the miracle, as a sign of humility and meekness and to show us that we should flee vainglory and the praise of others. The pharisees were proud, vainglorious, and sought the praise of others. There are other times when Jesus sends those whom he heals out to spread the news of what has happened to them, and by this they become preachers and apostles who spread the Good News of faith in Jesus Christ as Messiah, Son of God, Healer and Savior of the world. He does that in the case of the Gadarene demoniac who wants to stay with Jesus. Jesus tells him to go home and tell his friends what God has done for him. The samaritan woman at the well drops her water pot and runs into the city to tell everyone about her encounter with Jesus and that Jesus is the Messiah. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven" it says in Matt. 5:16. Lord, help us to increase our faith, and Lord, help us to have a spirit of repentance, for like David, we cry that we are *poor and needy* (Psalm 69:6). Amen.