

## He Has Done All Things Well

Joe Slater

Jesus had healed a deaf man with a speech impediment. *“Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly”* (Mark 8:35). The crowd knew He had done such things many times before. *“And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done all things well’”* (8:37).

Have you “done all things well”? I confess I have not! Even when I do my best, it isn’t necessarily done well. But Jesus did all things well.

His enemies didn’t approve of what He did. They even denied the source of His power. When He cast a demon out of a blind mute, the Pharisees exclaimed, *“This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons”* (Matthew 12:24). Their baseless argument failed to disprove the fact that Jesus did all things well.

Despite Jesus’ command to tell no one, *“the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it”* (Mark 7:36). How ironic that we haven’t been commanded to tell no one, but to tell everyone! Yet in all too many cases, we remain silent.

The lost need to learn, and the redeemed need to be reminded: Jesus does all things well! He *“is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”* (Hebrews 7:25).

Will you not tell it today?

## Benevolence In The Old Testament

We all know that Jesus taught us to care for the poor and needy. Benevolence is to be an active part of every Christian’s life. However, giving to those in need is not only a New Testament practice. God has always required His people to care for the less fortunate.

God required His people to care for those who fell on hard times. Deuteronomy 17:7-11 says that Hebrews were not to harden their hearts nor close their hands to the poor, rather give as the poor brother had need. In Leviticus 25:36, the Lord commanded, *“If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.”* Those who had fields of crops or vineyards were mandated to leave the corners of the fields unharvested to allow the poverty stricken to gather the leftover “gleanings” for food (Leviticus 19:9) This is what Ruth did in order to provide food for herself and her mother-in-law Naomi.

One aspect of the Old Testament law of benevolence that carried on into the Law of Liberty is one of cause and effect. In the Old Testament we read, *“The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”* (Proverbs 11:25) This same principle is repeated by Jesus when He said, *“Give, and it will be given to you; For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”* (Luke 6:38). The circle of benevolence is one that we all should be involved with at every opportunity (Galatians 6:10) and when we do, we’ll hear the King say, *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX)

## Love One Another

The other day I overheard someone talking about how they love to buy things online. They even observed that as soon as the drone delivery system is perfected, they won’t have to interact with the UPS person.

It seems that more and more stores are moving in this direction. Have you noticed that our society is becoming increasingly isolated from each other? You no longer have to go to department stores; just order what you want online. You don’t have to talk to anyone at the grocery store; with self-checkout lanes, you don’t even have to talk to a cashier. From drive-through windows to internet shopping, it’s all designed to make our lives easier; but it’s also taking away our interaction with each other.

Unfortunately, many of us apply this same attitude to the church. We slip in, talking to as few people as possible. We find a pew allows a quick getaway and, as soon as the closing prayer is over (or maybe while the invitation is being sung), we make our dash to the car.

I heard a quote which seems to capture is attitude:

*To live above with those we love,*

*Now that is grace and glory.*

*To live below with those we know,*

*Now that’s a different story!*

One of the greatest commands God gave us is to love one another. How can we do that if we refuse to interact with each other? How can our good works be a light to the world if the world can’t see them? How can we encourage each other without interaction?

It isn’t always convenient and may involve stepping out of our comfort zones, but we need to slow down and share our lives with others. Talk to the cashier at the store. Speak to others before and after church. Let’s love one another and let our lives be a light to those we meet!

--Luke Bower (adapted) via *Old Paths*