

*“He has done all things well.”* That is quite a compliment. Perhaps the highest praise that one can be given. Not just some things well, or even most things, but all things well. We should not be surprised at this. Maybe a little surprised that the people are saying this about Jesus. Yet not at all surprised that Jesus is going around from place to place doing all things well.

He is restoring creation. And you recall what Genesis chapter one says when God created the heavens and the earth. *“It was very good.”* No one was around to watch. But if there had been people observing, even the same people who complimented Jesus, they would have said after God finished creating, *“He has done all things well.”* So, no wonder they say this after Jesus heals the man who is deaf and can barely speak. Because the same God who created all things well in the beginning, is restoring what He created, putting things back in place.

When sin entered into God’s perfect creation everything, yes everything was turned upside down. Everything was a chaotic mess. Sin brought sickness, turmoil, and death. This man in our text, who was likely deaf from birth, was born with the internal working of his body out of place because sin had entered the world.

Into this same world you and I were born. A world that is upside down. Where evil is praised as being good, and good is seen as being evil. Where man assumes that he is God, and God is thrown down beneath his feet to be mocked, ignored, and even erased completely.

A world in which things are out of place is a world in which law and order is the exception and not the norm, and the justice system can better be called the injustice system.

Take a look at our world right now. One would have to be both blind and deaf to believe that everything is as it should be. Yet, what can be done?

In our text the people knew what could be done. They brought this deaf man, whose entire existence was upside down due to his being deaf, to Jesus. And Jesus turned things right side up again. He did not turn the entire world right side up. But He did put everything back in place for this man by healing him.

When cancer invades a family, it can turn the lives of that family upside down. Cancer is not sin. But sin did bring it into the world. Along with everything going on in your life right now which is causing you stress, and heartache, and more.

Could Jesus do for us what He did for the deaf man? Yes, He could. And He does through medicine and the skill of surgeons. But not always. Sometimes He leaves us in our upside down position. Not because He doesn’t care. But for a loving reason known only to Him.

Yet although many things in your life and mine are upside down and out of place, the most important thing is not. In your baptism Jesus turned you right side up again. He put you back in place. And that place is in the loving care of your Heavenly Father. When you were baptized, Jesus did not restore all of creation. But He did restore you. *“If anyone is in Christ,”* says the apostle, *“he is a new creation.”*

You are restored even if you do not feel restored. Your life is right side up even if it appears to be upside down. Jesus did not just do all things well in the region of the Decapolis. He has done all things well for you. There is not one thing in your life that He has not done well.

The same cannot be said of you and me. If those people who complimented Jesus were to speak truthfully about me, they would say, "he has done all things poorly." And they would be right. For even the good that we do is not good enough. *All our righteous deeds are but filthy rags.*

You and I, because we are sinful to the core, after Jesus puts us right side up, sadly put our lives back upside down again. This is why we lay our heads on our pillows so often even with tears, sorrowful over our sinfulness, sickened at how we un-restore what Jesus has restored so well.

But this is when we are called upon to walk by faith. To believe that no matter how awful the sin, we cannot undo our baptism into Christ. No matter how poorly we behave, our place, nonetheless, is in the loving care of our Heavenly Father. And even though we turn ourselves upside down and inside out by our sinfulness, we are, at all times, right side up because our baptism does not ever lie to us, and it declares that in Christ we are a new creation.

He, my friend, was turned upside down for you. All His bones were yanked out of place as He was nailed to the cross. Because He did that for you, even though your world is upside down, you are not. God has opened your ears to hear the Holy Gospel, the good news that your sins are forgiven. Not some of them, nor even most of them, but all your sins are forgiven. You are forgiven because Jesus died for you.

And this is why your tongue is released. You pray, praise, and give thanks that even though all of creation is upside down, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. All things, therefore, are well for you. Amen.