

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Jesus did a lot of things on his way to the cross. He brought together his disciples. He calmed some storms; He told some stories... and He healed a few folks.

I think that's pretty exciting! The healings, I mean. He healed a man with a dreaded skin disease, He touched Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever, and the fever left her. He healed two men with demons and a paralyzed man. He healed some blind men and a man with the inability to speak.

And then... in Matthew 9, he tells his followers... *"Jesus spoke sternly to those whom he had healed..."* ***DON'T TELL THIS TO ANYONE!***

What was that about? Reminds me of my growing up days. If I excelled at anything my parents would always remind me... "You don't need to go about bragging." We were taught to keep quiet about our accomplishments! Must have been the Scandinavian in us.

Why would Jesus tell people not to brag about what he had done? I can't help but wonder if he knew that the physical healings, he performed would certainly play out in the arena much more powerfully than the spiritual message he wished to send. It kind of goes back to the message I was thinking about last week... but in this case, Jesus' words spoke more than his actions.

Or... maybe Jesus just didn't want the focus to be so much on him, and more on the message. I remember years ago hearing the story of Billy Graham. Rev. Graham was being celebrated for his dedication to ministry at an event. People were giving talks about the wonderful things he had accomplished and finally it came time for him to take the stage. I've never forgotten the words he shared... "I think this is just way too much about Billy Graham and not enough about Jesus."

I think in this message from Matthew Jesus is reminding us that we need not focus on the "ME" or the "I" so much and turn our minds and our hearts to the message He carried on this earth and all the way to the cross.

I hope you are sharing in Pastor Dennis Nelson's Lenten messages... they help us pave the way as we walk to the cross. And wear your mask... wash your hands, fold them, and bow your head. Thank God for helping us to see the importance of living through Lent.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, remind me often that your mission is not about me... it is about You. Give strength to the weary, peace to the stressed, calm to the anxious and love to the broken hearted. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.