

MARK 7:31-37 THE DEAF AND MUTE HEALED

INTRO:

- In this section Jesus again takes the gospel to the Gentiles.
- He traveled from Tyre, first north to Sidon, about 20 miles, then southeast to the south eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, about 100+ miles.
- Jesus did not set a pattern regarding how He performed miracles. He did not repeat a formula over and over again.
- Every miracle of Jesus was special, no two alike. Everyone, every situation, person, and need was different.
- Each with its own sentiment, surroundings, dynamics and lessons.
- Mark is the only Gospel writer to record this miracle. Matthew records the scene but not the particular incidents.
- The man we meet here, like the Syro-Phoenician woman was most likely not a Jew as he was from the region of the Decapolis, (10 cities).
- This area was dominated by a Gentile population, and was a center for Greek paganism. Zeus, Artemus etc.
- It was reported that Decapolis was so Roman in culture that it was known as "Rome away from Rome."
- Jesus had been in this region before because this is the same area that Jesus delivered and healed the man with the 1000 demons.

I have this passage broken into a few observations then 4 headings;

1) **THE MAN**, 2) **THE METHOD**, 3) **THE MIRACLE** and 4) **THE MESSAGE**:

Read **Matt. 15: 29-31**, **Mk. 7:31-37**

OBSERVATIONS:

- Notice the difference of these Gentile peoples compared to the leaders of Israel, the Gentiles attributed the miracles to God, while the religious leaders of Israel attribute His miracle power to Satan.
- Jesus strongly commands this man not to speak of his miracle with anyone.
- Imagine just being able to hear and speak for the first time and being told to not let anyone know.
- A riddle is said of this man,.. "who is permitted to speak but is not able, and who is able to speak but not permitted?"
- This was opposite to the Gadarene demoniac who was told to go and tell everyone. He was the forerunner for Jesus here. **Mk. 5:18-20**

1) THE MAN: VS. 32, ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him

- **Impediment in his speech:= Magilalos; Magi, difficulty, lalos, speech, difficulty of speech.**
- **This is the only place that this word is found in the NT.**
- **However from the Greek O.T., the Septuagint, it is found in **Isa. 35:6**,**
- **Chapter 35 is prophetic regarding the ministry of the coming Messiah, and here we find the only other time this word is used in the Greek scriptures... To cause the "dumb to sing." That is shout for joy.**
- **Begged:= to entreat with a sense of urgency.**
- **Why did this man need help to get to Jesus, was it the crowd, was he shy, was he weak, was he ashamed, was he unbelieving? Had he lived in humiliation and hopelessness, having given up?**
- **This man had helpers, friends who bring him to Jesus and "beg" Jesus to lay His hands on him.**
- **How good to have friends for friends bring us to Christ. In body or in prayer. Let us do the same. AM I SOMEONES FRIEND?**

2) THE METHOD: VS. 33, 34, ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Eph-pha-tha," that is, "Be opened."

- **Jesus first removes the man from the crowd, to be alone with Jesus, eye to eye, no distractions.**
 - **Has Jesus taken you aside, into the solitary, alone with Him.**
- **We see Jesus doing 6 things to communicate to this man.**

- 1) He put His fingers in the man's ears.**
- 2) He spits.**
- 3) He touched the man's tongue.**
- 4) He looked up to heaven.**
- 5) He sighed.**
- 6) He speaks.**

- **With these 6 signs Jesus communicated to this wounded man the following.**
- **1) He put His fingers in the man's ears.**
 - **Letting the man know He knew his need and that He intended to open his ears.**
- **2) He spits.**
 - **This is difficult to figure, was it a sign regarding the local belief that spittle had a medicinal power?**
 - **Was it a sign that Jesus cursed this man's disability? Spitting being a curse?**
- **3) He touched the man's tongue.**
 - **Again letting the man know the He knew of this disability and He was going to do something about it?**

- 4) He looked up to heaven.
 - This we see Jesus do at least two other times;
 - Jn. 11:41, Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.
 - Mk. 6:41, And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves.
 - Why did Jesus look up into heaven?
 - To point out the Source of His commission, authority and dependence?
 - (John 5:19; the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.
 - He was pointing the direction and Object of His prayer?
 - Ps 121:1-2, I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help? ² My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
 - To display His cooperation, communion, and oneness with the Father?
 - I and the Father are one. John 10:30
- 5) He sighed.
 - Letting the man know the He shared in his burden, shared in his sadness, and would move in compassion.
 - Jesus groaned seeing men in misery.
 - Heb. 4:15; For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.
 - This same word is used in **Rom. 8:23, 26**, "groan."
- 6) He speaks.
 - Eph-pha-tha, "be opened."
 - Showing Himself the promised Messiah who would come in authority as the great Physician and deliverer.
 - Isa. 61:1; "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;
- Jesus did not have to touch the man's ears or his tongue for this healing to take place. All He need do is say the word, but it shows us something more of the character of God.

3) THE MIRACLE: *VS. 35, immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.*

- **Impediment:** "a band, a fetter, anything for tying," "to bind, fasten with chains. Different than the word in vs 32.
 - Act. 16:26; Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.
- This man could not hear the word Jesus spoke, "Eph-pha-tha" be opened, but the created heard the great voice of the Creator.

- The result was immediate, instant healing. His ears were opened and his tongue was set free, and he spoke plainly, rightly, correctly.
- This is most amazing, not only could this man instantly hear, but he could speak, this man who had not heard a word spoken most likely in his whole life.
- But now he speaks clearly, perfectly, where did his vocabulary come from, having not learned the sound of words before?
- How did he know language, pronunciation? What speech therapist had he gone to? Jesus and he spoke clearly, perfectly.
- This is as amazing as the stilling of the storm and the sea...

4) THE MESSAGE: (CONCLUSION) VS. 36, 37, . *³⁶ Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

So what is our take away/ what are we to learn from this incident?

- The ministry and miracles of Jesus point to what shall be in the age to come.
- He casts out demons now, for there shall be no demonic interference for His saints in the age to come.
- He healed all manners of diseases because there will be no sickness, disease in heaven.
- He raised the dead for there will be no more death in heaven.
- The people were commenting on the perfection of this man's healing.
- He was healed wholly, completely, perfectly. Jesus does no half healings, no half salvations.
- Though Jesus is the Great Physician and He heals every type of sickness, disease or demonic damage, His true calling and mission is to heal men's souls.
- By His Spirit to day he opens men's ears so they might hear His voice and live, this is the greatest of miracles. Healed men may yet end up in hell.
- Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.
- He does all things well. = rightly, or correctly, fully.
- Is my testimony like these Gentile onlookers?
 - "He does all things well," and causing me to "glorifying the God of Israel?"
- Or the God of those giants who have gone before us? (Hudson Taylor, J. o. Fraser, George Whitefield, John Wesley, Samuel Rutherford, William Booth, Billy Graham, Henry Teigland, etc.)
- See Acts when new tongues were given Acts 2:11 & 10:46 "the wonderful works of God."
- May the Holy Spirit open our ears to hear and loosen our tongues to speak wonderful things of God. To praise, worship and glorify Him..

SHOUT TO THE LORD..