

The Healing Of A Deaf Man With A Speech Impediment

Mark 7:31-37



This particular miracle is recorded only by **Mark**, and follows the miracle that **Jesus** worked in the life of a **Syrophenician woman** in the coasts of **Tyre** and **Sidon** (**verse 24**). What **Mark** records here opens with **Jesus** leaving the **Gentile** cities of **Tyre** and **Sidon** (**verse 31**), which were **northwest** of the **Sea of Galilee**, and headed to **Decapolis** which was on the **east** side of the **Sea of Galilee** on the **southern** end. **Jesus** went from the **northwest** to the **southeast** in a circuitous route.

Matthew also gives record of **Jesus** leaving the coasts of **Tyre** and **Sidon**, following the miraculous working of **Christ** in the **Syrophenician woman** (**Matthew 15:29**). This is parallel to what **Mark** records, but **Matthew** does not record this particular miracle that **Mark** records. However, **Matthew** does mention that **Jesus** went to a mountain, and that the people brought to **Jesus** those who needed healing, and He healed them (**Matthew 15:29-31**). This man

that was **deaf**, and with a **speech impediment** that **Mark** writes about was part of those who were brought to **Jesus** in **Matthew's** account.

I. THE DETAILS OF THE MIRACLE

1 The People Bring This Man To Jesus:

The people in this region had become very much aware of the healing powers of **Jesus** (**Mark 3:8**), and besides this; the testimony of the delivered **demoniac** of **Gadara** had been heard throughout this region (**Mark 5:19-20**). As a result, many of the people in this region in their mind knew who **Christ** was, and what **Christ** could do. **Mark** records that they brought unto **Christ** "**one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech**" (**7:32**). This man was deaf, and could not speak plainly, it was very difficult for him to speak. It is implied in **verse 35** that he was tongue-tied. This man's **deafness** and **impediment** in speech are connected one with the other. The people knew that this man desperately needed the power of **Christ** upon his life, so they

brought this man to **Christ**, pleading with Him to heal him with a touch (**Mark 7:32**). From what they had heard of **Christ** THEY KNEW THAT THERE WAS POWER IN HIS VERY TOUCH!

② The Manner In Which Jesus Worked This Miracle:

○ Jesus Dealt With This Man In A Private Manner:

With the multitude gathered around **Christ**, **Mark** records; *“And He took him aside from the multitude” (verse 33)*.

○ Jesus Touched This Man In A Twofold Way:

He *“put His fingers into his (deaf) ears”* and *“He spit, (moistening His own finger), and touched his tongue” (verse 33)*. THESE WERE NOT THE CAUSES OF THE CURE, BUT WERE SYMBOLIC OF HIS POWER EXERTED TO HEAL! The **touch** of **Christ** (**Mark 1:31, 41; 5:41; 6:5; 8:22, 25**) was an expression of His **tenderness, love, and compassion!** When **Jesus** *“spit and touched his tongue”* it was as if He said to this man *“Only that which comes forth out of Me entering into you can bring you healing”*

○ Jesus Looked Up To Heaven:

“And looking up to heaven” (verse 34), as if to say *“What is about to happen to you comes from heaven”* **Jesus** did this to give **God the Father** the **praise** and **glory!**

○ Jesus Sighed:

Jesus, *“looking up to heaven, He **sighed**” (verse 34)*. To **“sigh”** is *“to exhale”* That **Jesus** *“sighed”* is not indicative of **reluctancy** or **difficulty** in performing the miracle, but is indicative of His **pity** and **sympathy** for this man.

○ Jesus Spoke:

“and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is Be opened” (verse 34). The result of **Christ's** spoken word was an immediate and thorough cure (**verse 35**). HIS WORDS ARE POWERFUL AND ACTIVE ACCOMPLISHING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE SPEAKS! This is illustrated in creation (**Genesis 1:3, 9, 11, 14, 15, 24, 26**), and throughout the ministry of **Christ** (**Mark 1:41; 4:39; Luke 7:14; 18:42; John 11:43**). HIS IS A VOICE OF GREAT POWER (**Revelation 1:15**).

③ The Man Is Healed (verse 35).

The cure was **immediate**; *“And straightway”* The man's **ears were unplugged**; *“his ears were opened”* The man's **impediment was removed**; *“and the string of his tongue was loosed”* The result; *“he spake plain” (clearly, and pronounced)*.

II. THE AFFECT THAT THIS HAD UPON THE PEOPLE

① **The People Were In A State Of Awe:**

Matthew states that *“the multitude wondered” (15:31)* when they saw the people healed. That is, *“they were filled with awe, and admiration, they were amazed”* **Mark** writes that they *“were beyond measure (immeasurably) astonished” (Mark 7:37).*

② **The People Were Zealous In Spreading The Word About Christ:**

The people full of awe and amazement went publicly and communicated what **Jesus** had done (**verse 36**). Their message was what **Christ** had done; *“he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak” (verse 37)*. Once again, word was being circulated in **Decapolis** concerning the miraculous power of **Christ!**

③ **The People Were Rejoicing And Satisfied With The Work Of Christ:**

They went publicly with great joy in their hearts, saying *“He hath done all things well” (verse 37)*. Again, THEIR MESSAGE WAS ABOUT WHAT CHRIST HAD DONE; *“he hath done”* Theirs was A MESSAGE ABOUT THE EXCELLENCY AND THOROUGHNESS OF CHRIST'S WORK!

This healing miracle of **Christ**, like all of His healing miracles sent a message that *“Jesus has come from heaven to restore creation, and to undo the damage that the fall into sin has brought”*
