



Sermon Series: Mark: The Power

Sermon Title: Which Jesus?

Date: 11/2/2025

Mark 7:31–37

Big Idea: How does Jesus meet you? Any way He chooses!

Everyone meets Jesus differently. In Mark 7 we see three portraits - **Jesus the Traveler**, **Jesus the Healer**, and **Jesus the Strategist** - each revealing how personally and purposefully He meets people where they are.

1. Jesus the Traveler — Unhindered and on the Move

Mark 7:31 describes Jesus traveling from Tyre through Sidon to the Decapolis, over a hundred miles of rugged terrain and mostly Gentile territory. These ten cities were known for independence and spiritual darkness, yet Jesus went anyway.

Why? Because He seeks those who seem unreachable. Whether someone feels far from God, spiritually empty, or disillusioned, Jesus is already on the move toward them. Just as He met the Samaritan woman at a well (John 4), Zacchaeus in a tree (Luke 19), and Saul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9), He meets us wherever we are - at work, in pain, or in doubt.

No place is too distant, no heart too closed. Jesus crosses boundaries and barriers to reach people. If you feel far from God, take courage: He's already walking your way.

2. Jesus the Healer — Personal and Intentional

Mark 7:32-35 tells of friends bringing a man who was deaf and could hardly speak. Jesus takes him aside privately and uses an unexpected method. He places fingers in the man's ears, touches his tongue with saliva, looks to heaven, and commands, "Ephphatha," meaning "Be opened." Instantly, the man can hear and speak.

This strange moment shows how personal Jesus' care is. The man couldn't hear words, so Jesus used touch, the language of compassion. The Savior met him in a way he could feel before he could understand. His command

carried creative power: as God once said, “Let there be light,” now the Son says, “Be opened,” and creation responds.

Even the detail of the “string of his tongue” being loosed (v. 35) points to how Jesus frees what’s bound, physically and spiritually. Whatever part of life feels tied in knots - heart, mind, or relationship - He can release it.

The man’s friends model faithful intercession: they brought him when he could not come himself. Many of us have loved ones who need that same persistent prayer and care. Jesus honors those who carry others to Him.

3. Jesus the Strategist — Purposeful and Patient

In **Mark 7:36-37**, after healing, Jesus tells them not to spread the news, yet people can’t stay silent. His command wasn’t to hide power but to manage timing. Every miracle moved Him closer to the cross. Jesus wasn’t improvising—He was fulfilling a divine plan.

The crowd’s response, “He has done all things well” echoes Genesis 1, where God saw all that He made and called it good. Christ, the Creator in flesh, is restoring what sin broke.

We often want instant answers, but Jesus works strategically. His delays are not neglect; they are designed. When we demand results, we risk missing His deeper work. True faith trusts that His pace and purpose are perfect. He may not act when we expect, but He never acts without reason.

Jesus later declared, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**John 14:6**). He doesn’t merely point out a path; He is the path. Humanity has wandered far (**Isaiah 53:6**), but Jesus travels the distance, heals the brokenness, and leads us home to God.

He meets us as the Traveler who seeks, the Healer who restores, and the Strategist who saves. At just the right moment, He calls, “Be opened.” When we respond in faith, confessing Jesus as Lord and believing that God raised Him from the dead (**Romans 10:9**), He opens our hearts to new life.

So, how does Jesus meet you? Any way He chooses. He may come through a crisis, a friend’s prayer, or a quiet conviction in your heart. However He comes, His purpose is the same: to lead you into life with Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What does Jesus' long journey through Gentile regions reveal about His heart for people?
- How does the private healing scene show Jesus' personal care?
- Who are the "friends" you're praying to bring to Jesus?
- In what ways has God's timing challenged or grown your faith?
- Where in your life do you need to hear Him say, "Be healed"?