

Mark 7:31-37**I. Slide1 Announce:**

- A. **Slide2,3** Men's Breakfast this Sat. CM Family Night.
- B. **Slide4** So far AL, *Jesus & His Seekers, while a baby* (Simeon & Anna). AP, *Jesus and the first disciples in the boats*. Tonight I will do, *Jesus and a Deaf Man*, Mrk 7.
 - 1. AL w/time travel (camel/donkey) AP time traveling goat? Me, sandals.
- C. **Title:** A Devotional Journey with Jesus. **Subtitle:** It Takes Wonder to Worship
 - 1. wonder, awe, amazement, astonishment, surprise, & admiration.
- D. **Prayer:** Lord, restore our wonder. **Bring us to our knees in awe of You.** May we be amazed, astonished, surprised, and in awe of **who You are.**

II. Slide5 Jesus and the Deaf Man - Read Mark 7:31-37**III. Slide6a THE PATH (7:31)** *Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis*

- A. He completed a clockwise circular journey from Capernaum, to Tyre (40m N), to Sidon (20m N), to the Decapolis (S/E).
 - 1. The Decapolis, a *Rome away from Rome*. And although in Gentile territory most of the 10 cities had a large Jewish community.
 - 2. **Jesus is taking the long way home** - probably took 8 months. Using this time to train His disciples. **A kind of walking seminar.**
- B. **I think the former demoniac man in ch.5:19,20 did his job?** (while climbing in his boat, Jesus said go home do your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has mercy on you) He lived in the Decapolis.

IV. Slide6b THE PEOPLE (7:32) *And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.*

- A. **The man healed** really doesn't have a speaking part, just **the people do** at beg & end.
- B. **But let's put ourselves in this man's skin** - what a bleak future for him.
1. **No surgery, no medicine, no possibility of hearing aids, no speech therapist to help, no medical breakthroughs on the horizon.** **But** he had people who cared for him (*they brought, they begged*)
- C. The local's bring him a man w/multiple disabilities, as he's both **deaf &** has a **severe speech impediment**.
1. He wasn't completely w/o speech, **but** he could not communicate clearly.
 2. **And they begged Him to lay His hands on him.**
 - a) The people didn't show signs of **apathy** (w/o feeling, *lack of interest*). **But instead sympathy** (w/feelings, *wish we could do something*), that swelled **here** into **empathy** (in feelings, *I can do something, I must do something*).
- D. **PS: If you want to be like Jesus**, make sure you spend time with people with *physical or spiritual disabilities*. **That's always** where Jesus was!

V. Slide6c **THE PRIVACY (7:33a)** *And taking him aside from the crowd privately*

- A. **Privately** - being alone with God. **The undivided attention of deity.**
- B. **We classify people into groups**, **Jesus** sees each person as an *individual*.
1. **Jesus shows us, each person is special & deserves a unique approach.**
 2. Jesus begins to speak to him in a language that this deaf man could **hear**
 - a) Jesus uses **sign language & symbolic acts**.
 3. At 1st His actions seem almost disgusting (*spittle*) – **but in fact it was Jesus' beautiful way of entering this man's world.**
 4. He recognizes this **deaf culture** & communicates to him in a kind of *sign language*. [not **ASL** **but** **SSL** - *Savior Sign Language*]

VI. Slide6d **THE TOUCH (7:33b)** *he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue.*

A. What if Jesus would've walked up just *talking at* this deaf man.

I wonder, as the man was doing his best to *form words* , how many times did he *see* the words mouthed, " *What are you saying?* " (w/discuss).

B. Every touch & gesture has meaning:

1. *The touch of wellness* - He put His fingers in his ears – showing him *what* he was going to heal. [Jesus invented the *Wet-Willy?*]
2. *The contact of the curative* - He touched his tongue – again showing him *what* he was going to heal. (*saliva* was connected w/healing in that day)

VII.Slide6e **THE POSTURE (7:34a)** *And looking up to heaven, he sighed*

1. *The look of communion* - He looked up to heaven – to demonstrate *where* the healing is coming from. Prayer of dependence.
 - a) Just like He did before He raised Lazarus. *He lifted His eyes towards heaven.*
2. *The groan of emotion* - He sighed (somewhere between a fit of anger and a burst of tears) He's identifying with the man w/this *inward groan* . It's a compassionate response to his pain & sorrow.
 - a) Jesus' deep sigh brings healing balm, for it is *the breath of compassion* .
 - b) I believe it's Jesus saying, *I never intended it to be this way* . Jesus does feel your pain tonight. It resonates w/Him. *Sympathetic resonance* (2 tuning forks). *And in the agony of Jesus, lies our hope!*

VIII.Slide6f **THE HEALING (7:34b,35)** *and said to him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. 35 And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.*

1. *The word of consummation/complete* - He spoke – commanding the healing.
 - a) *Ephphatha* (Aramaic). And it is easily *lip-read* by a deaf person.
 - b) *Ephphatha* also the 1st sound to penetrate the man's ears in years.
2. He could now hear & speak plainly. *And it was all because of Jesus.*

- a) **See**, Jesus speaks **deaf**. Jesus speaks **mute**. Jesus speaks **alcoholic**. Jesus speaks **pot**. Jesus speaks **homosexuality**. Jesus speaks **adulterer**. Jesus speaks **liar**. Jesus speaks **porn addiction**. Jesus speaks **pride**.
- b) **Meaning**, Jesus **touches people** directly **in** their need, **in** their brokenness.
 - (1) Jesus **fixes** people where they are **broken**. Where are you **broken**?
 - (2) Jesus **opens** people where they are **closed**. Where are you **closed**?
 - (3) Jesus **unclogs** people who are **jammed up**. Where are you **clogged**?

3. **Because**, that's what the **Gospel** is all about.

- a) Many still think Church is all about, *A good person, telling other good people, how to be better people. That's not what the bible teaches.*
- b) **Christianity** is not *turning over a new leaf*; it's receiving a **new life**. **Christianity** is not *you must do*; it's **Jesus already did**.

B. (36) **The Warning** (don't tell anyone, but they do)

IX. Slide 6g THE COMPLIMENT (7:37) *And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, He has done all things well. (NLT) They were completely amazed and said again and again, Everything He does is wonderful.*

A. These words that can carry us into the *uncertain days* ahead ... *Everything He does is wonderful.*

B. I believe that all of these miracles in the **physical realm** are **illustrations** of what **Jesus** can do in the **spiritual realm**.

C. **Slide 7 Questions/Prayer:** (for you listening in also)

1. What are you spiritually deaf to? What is impeding your speech? Heart attitude toward your spouse? Former spouse? Somebody at work?
2. Now think about (not what you don't have, **disabilities**) but what you do have. Do you have friends or people in your life who care about you?

3. Tonight if Jesus *took you aside privately* - what would it be for? If you just went *negative*, I want you to go *positive*. What would He desire to *whisper to you alone?* (something beautiful, something sweet, something endearing, *what words would you like to hear?*)
4. If Jesus spoke to you *ephphatha/be opened*, what would *be opened* for you? Ask Him to *open* your ears to him (heart, mind, soul, what ever else is closed off). Lord I need my tongue released ... (for what)? Have you had trouble lately speaking plainly? and to whom? (tell Him)
5. Sit and just be *astonished beyond measure* in Him.
6. Tell Him, *He has done all things well* in your life.