

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man
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Text: Mark 7:31-37

Gospel of Mark: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: A Deaf and Dumb Man Healed

Central Idea of Message: Jesus's motivation was to make lives better, not to make headlines.

Introduction: This particular miracle is recorded only in Mark's narrative. There were, undoubtedly, many other healings and miracles which went unrecorded by anyone.

But Mark was inspired to include this miracle in his gospel, perhaps to inspire his readers for centuries to come. And it worked!

Countless millions have been nearly as astounded as the eye-witnesses! You would be too if you saw Jesus heal someone - anyone - who is deaf and has difficulty speaking plainly because of it.

I. The Man Who Could Not Hear or Speak Plainly (vv. 31-34)

- A. Jesus leaves the region of Tyre (v. 31)
 - 1. Journeyed through the city of Sidon, a nearby sister city to Tyre
 - 2. Headed to the Sea of Galilee, which was in the region of Decapolis [ten cities], which means he crossed the Jordan River [note the geography]
 - 3. This is quite a lot of territory to cover, especially by foot and probably took many weeks (cf. Godwin 68), perhaps even as long as eight months (cf. Barclay 208)
- B. A man unable to hear and unable to speak plainly is brought to Jesus (v. 32)
 - 1. We don't know who the "they" that brought the man are
 - 2. But we do know that this man was deaf and spoke with difficulty
 - 3. The ones who brought the man to Jesus were entreating him to lay his hand upon the man
 - a) Please note that they did not ask Jesus to heal the man

- b) Imperative, so it is a command, but to whom?
 - (1) Even though the man could not hear this word he could probably read the lips of Jesus
 - (2) **Just as Jesus had previously spoken to the wind and the sea and they had obeyed him, so he spoke to the man's deaf ears and they each complied with his command!**
 - (3) Some commentators think that the man's condition was caused by a demon (cf. Grassmick 2:136; Robertson 1:327), but I find no textual clues to support this theory (see also Lane 267)

II. The Miracle of Hearing and Speaking (vv. 35-37)

- A. The healing miracle (v. 35)
 - 1. The man's ears were opened, which means he could now hear
 - 2. The impediment of the man's tongue was removed so that he could now speak plainly, which was something Isaiah had predicted about 700 years earlier that the Messiah would do (cf. Isa. 35:4-6)
 - 3. **Instantly, without speech therapy, Jesus made the man's ears and tongue do what they were created to do!**
- B. Jesus gave orders not to tell anyone (v. 36)
 - 1. Presumably given to the man and those who brought him
 - 2. Jesus was gradually disclosing his identity as the Messiah, but was also trying to time this disclosure perfectly
 - a) To keep his messiahship a secret until the right time in God's chronology
 - b) So that his ministry on earth would not be shortened with a quick arrest and execution
 - 3. But Mark writes that the more Jesus ordered the healed and their friends not to tell anybody what happened, the more widely they publicized what Jesus had done!
 - a) Jesus operated quite the opposite of modern publicity techniques
 - b) He adamantly demanded no advertising at this time because this was the region where many had wanted to make him king

- c) But most people who knew of his miracles could not contain their excitement, so they proclaimed the news widely and repeatedly
- C. Utter astonishment (v. 37)
 - 1. Those who had known the man prior to this miraculous event were completely amazed that the man could now hear and speak quite plainly
 - 2. The word on the street
 - a) Jesus "has done all things well"
 - b) Jesus "makes even the deaf to hear and "the dumb to speak"
 - c) **People familiar with Isa. 35:4-6 were seeing in the miracles of Jesus the fulfillment of God's promise of intervention in human history in the person of the Messiah - so Jesus must be the Messiah!**

Conclusion: Principles.

(1) Those who come to Jesus will get far more than expected - just wait!

(2) Full yieldedness to Christ is a wise thing to do if we want to experience his healing and cleansing touch!

(3) Leper, lame, demon-possessed, deaf, mute, Gentile or Jew, Jesus blessed and healed all who came to him in faith, convincingly showing that nobody is too "unclean" or too tainted by sin to lie beyond the reach of his grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

(4) Jesus does all things well!

(5) Jesus' motivation was to make lives better, not to make headlines.