

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 5, 2017

“He Has Done All Things Well”
Mark 7:31-37

I. The second retreat (7:31-32)

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 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.

- “Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.”
 - This is a ridiculous route that makes no sense!
 - Jesus went north 15 miles before descending south to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee
 - Why does Mark tell us this information???
 - Jesus is still retreating to get away from hostile unbelieving Jews
 - Jesus is still retreating to be with His disciples
 - Jesus is still in Gentile territory
- “And they brought to him a man...”
 - Who heard about Jesus in this Gentile region?
 - Mark 3:7-12 reminds us of the diverse crowd who followed Jesus
 - Perhaps the Gerasene demoniac from Mark 5:1-20 had spread the word of Jesus in the Decapolis since Jesus left?
 - Mark 5:19 “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”
 - These men brought this man to Jesus because he had no way of knowing about or finding Jesus
 - They did not have ASL or programs for accommodating the deaf
- “a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment”
 - First time we have encountered deafness in Mark’s gospel
 - Only other deaf man is in Mark 9:25
 - Only time we have someone identified as having a “speech impediment”
 - Word literally means “speaking with difficulty”
 - This is a deaf man who had lost the ability to speak due to his deafness

- This man once had communication with others but now it had been lost
- “and they begged him to lay his hand on him”
 - Jesus was implored or begged often in the gospels
 - Laying hands on someone is here in reference to healing
 - Luke 13:13 healed a woman, made her back straight

II. The strange remedy (7:33-35)

33 And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” 35 And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

- “And taking him aside from the crowd privately”
 - Jesus chooses to act individually and personally with this deaf-mute man
 - This also appears to be consistent with Jesus’ desires to stay under the radar and remain hidden
- Jesus chooses to heal this man in a series of strange actions
- “he put his fingers into his ears”
 - Using sign language, Jesus acknowledges this man’s hearing deficiency
- “and after spitting touched his tongue”
 - We are not sure exactly how this looked since the text is vague
 - Our best guess is that Jesus spit upon His own fingers and then touched this man’s tongue
 - Once again, this was clear sign language to acknowledge this man’s speaking impediment
- “And looking up to heaven, he sighed”
 - This gesture then pointed to the solution
 - Jesus acknowledged the man’s problem then used His body language of looking to heaving and sighing with prayer as a way to show whose power would heal this man
- “and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’”
 - This man had probably learned to read lips
 - However, this might have been the first word he heard in a long time
 - Mark records the actual Aramaic word indicating the details of the story
 - It is as if Mark got this story from the man himself
 - This man would never forget these details in this moment
- “And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.”

-This becomes another beautiful display of Christ as both servant and God

-He is God because He does what God does

-Isaiah 35:5-6 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;"

-He is a servant because He takes the time to heal this Gentile in this most compassionate and tender way

III. The surprised responses (7:36-37)

36 And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

- "And Jesus charged them to tell no one"

-Jesus did this in Mark 1:45 when He cleansed the leper

-Jesus did this in Mark 5:43 when He raised Jairus' daughter

-This is not to raise an issue with the power of Jesus since demons shut up but humans keep talking

-This is to highlight His humble service and desire to minister as a servant, not the area's next miracle worker traveling to make money

- "But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it."

-It appears that Jesus repeatedly told them to be quiet

-They repeatedly and zealously proclaimed

-You could not shut these people up!

- "And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'"

-They were astonished like those who have heard His teaching

-The response of the people in Mark 1 (Capernaum synagogue)

-The response of the people in Mark 6 (Nazareth synagogue)

-Their astonishment was directly related to the miracle they had just witnessed, "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak"

-Notice the contrast between the Jews and Gentiles in Jesus' ministry

-Jews witnessed scores of miracles by Jesus and responded with shallow enthusiasm or even skepticism

-Gentiles have barely witnessed Jesus' power but they respond as bold heralds of Jesus

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