

SERMON NOTES

Preacher: Kevin Hardy

Date: November 3, 2024

Text: Mark 7:31-37

Title: Ears to Hear and Mouths to Speak

Big Idea: Only the touch of Jesus opens ears to hear His word and loosens tongues to speak it.



I. HEALING (vv. 31-35)

Jesus is still in a Gentile region – and in particular He is back in an area where he has performed a previous miracle (Mark 5:1-20).

When Mark says the man had a speech impediment, he uses the word *mogilalos*. There is only one other place in the Bible where we see this word – Isaiah chapter 35:

*4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”*
*5 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.
(Isaiah 35:4-6)*

II. PROCLAMATION (v. 36)

...the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. (v. 36)

for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)

The work of Jesus should cause proclamation!

“What does it mean for all these to hear and understand (7:14)? It means that whether Jew or Gentile, near or far, knowledgeable or neophyte, only the touch of Jesus can enable true hearing, seeing, understanding, and witness.”¹

III. GLORY (v. 37)

“He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (v. 37)

¹ Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark*, 227.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To be used for personal reflection and/or sermon-based small group discussion.

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READ Mark 7:24-30

What sticks out to you from the passage in your initial reading? Share your observations about the text. Share questions that you have about the text. Is there anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question you would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord?

Where is Christ in this passage? How does this passage relate to the person, nature, character or work of Christ? Luke 24:44 says all of Scripture is about Christ. So, how does this passage help you see more of who Christ is, what He has done, or allows you to love Him more?

READ Isaiah 35:1-10. What events does Isaiah foresee? (v. 5-6) What is their significance? (v. 2-4, 8-10) What does that tell us about Jesus?²

Jesus could have healed the man instantly with a word. Why do you think He took him aside from the crowd and touched the man's ears and tongue?

Compare the reaction of the people of Decapolis to this miracle with their reaction to the first miracle Jesus performed in that region (5:1-20). What do you suppose accounted for the difference?

The people's testimony about Jesus is that "he has done everything well". In what ways is this true of Jesus' work in your own life?³

PRAY

Praise Jesus that he has indeed "done everything well", and that no person and no nation is out of his reach. Pray that in every nation more and more people would have their ears opened to hear Jesus' word and their tongues loosed to speak it (and pray for your own ears and tongue too!).⁴

² Griffith-Jones, *Explore Mark*

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.