



A Deaf Man Healed

June 5

INTRODUCTION: The first section of Mark is all about who Jesus is. As this first section closes, increasingly, Jesus’s focus moves from Israel to the nations. We see this again today in a short yet rich story.

REVIEW: The Bible Project, Mark (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: miracle, proclamation, nations, goodness

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Traditions, Mk 7:1–13)

- “Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.” Discuss.
- How had the Pharisees turned God’s doctrines into human traditions? Why is this vain?
- Can you give an example of a doctrine and a tradition?
- Why does the church need ongoing reformation through the Word to avoid this human tendency?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (What defiles a person?, Mk 7:14–30)

- What had the Jews come to see as defiling?
- How did Jesus counter their view by focusing upon the heart?
- How do many people focus on external ‘good deeds’?
- Why do we need an inner reformation and how?

READ: Mark 7:31–37

QUESTIONS:

1. V. 1- *Jesus has been travelling in the regions near Galilee. Now he returns to the Decapolis (c.f. ‘Legion’), Greek for 10 cities. It was a mixed area, inhabited by Jews and Gentiles.* What clues do we have that this man may have been Jewish?
2. V. 2- **How do you think they found out about Jesus?**
3. *The man cannot hear or speak normally.* **What could this have meant for the man’s life?**
4. *‘They begged Him.’* **What does this convey, about the situation, about their view of Jesus?**

5. V. 33a- **Why do you think Jesus took Him aside privately when so many of His miracles were public? How do we know when it is best to speak privately with someone? What benefits can it have? (see below)**
6. V. 33b- **Jesus has healed at a word and at a distance, not evening setting His eye on someone; this seems bizarre. However, consider what each would mean to someone whose senses are limited to the visual and touch:**

<i>Fingers into his ears</i>	
<i>After spitting, touched his tongue</i>	
<i>Looking up to heaven</i>	
<i>sighed</i>	
<i>Ephphatha</i>	

7. V. 35- *the miracle! However, like all miracles, they have a teaching purpose! What is Jesus teaching here...*
8. V. 34- **Jesus commands the entire being of the man when He said, ‘Be opened.’ How is this a picture of the healing power of Jesus over the man’s whole person?**
9. *Our greatest needs are spiritual. The world’s problems don’t need external fixes but deep internal change.*
10. V. 36- Why does Jesus often tell [the Jews] this?
11. *Interesting the emphasis used here (e.g. ‘zealous’). ‘Good news isn’t good news until we’ve share it.’* **Discuss. Are we sharing the Good News of Jesus? Is it good news to us?**
12. V. 37- *Like v. 36—bold language—including ‘He has done all things well.’ Back up to ‘Ephaphatha’ and remember we’re in a mixed region. This word is a rare word. A key place it is found is in Isaiah 35:5–6. Read.*
13. *This word was intentionally chosen. Jesus is fulfilling prophecy, which is good news for all people. The new creation begins with a new people (1 Cor 5:17), which Jesus ushers in with His Kingdom!* **In contrast with the brokenness of sin, like Gen 1:31, how does Jesus ‘do all things well.’?**

NEXT WEEK: June 12- Confession and Clarity, Mk 8:27–9:1