

A CHURCH FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MARK 7:31-37

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — APRIL 24, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:31-37 ESV

31 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. 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. 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.”

SERMON RECAP

Key Points For Us Today

1. People with disabilities are made in the image of God.
 - They are not less human or less valuable.
 - They have inherent dignity regardless of physical or intellectual ability.
 - They are not less capable of bearing the image of God.
2. People with disabilities are invited into the kingdom of God.
 - This man experiences the physical healing power of Jesus as a precursor to the saving power of the gospel.
3. People with disabilities should be welcomed and included in the family of God.
 - External and internal church ministries provide opportunities to serve many who are in need.
4. People with disabilities will be fully restored in the presence of God.
5. Jesus’ miracles can only be understood in light of Jesus’ mission.
 - Jesus is not just a miracle worker; He is Messiah, our Savior, who came to offer His life as a sacrifice for sin, on mission to save people from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

Read Mark 7:31-37 aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about the passage. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you all observe from the text.

1. Where is Jesus going (v.31) and how does this story fit within the context of the previous stories in the book of Mark?
2. What specific actions does Jesus take when he interacts with this man (vv.32-35)?
3. What is the reaction of the crowd to Jesus’ actions? What did the crowds say in response to His

actions (vv.36-37)?

4. How would you explain or summarize this passage in your own words?

What does the passage mean?

1. What do you know about the region of Decapolis (v.31)? See also Mt. 4:25. What would it mean to people in Jesus' day that He visited this Gentile region? What does it mean to us today?
2. Why might Jesus have focused on this one man when they were among masses of people needing His help (v.32)? See Mt. 15:30-31. What challenges did this man face? What does it say about Jesus that He paused to spend focused time on this man? See Isa. 35:5-6.
3. In what remarkable way does Jesus communicate with this man (v.33)? How does Jesus speak to people regardless of their physical or intellectual challenges?
4. How might Jesus' healing of this man's hearing, and breaking the chain of this man's tongue relate to the physical, psychological, and societal bondages that we face today (v.35)? How does this healing relate to spiritual bondage to Satan?
5. When Jesus charged the crowd to be silent about this miracle, why did the crowd become even more zealous to share what they saw and heard (vv.36-37)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. What might be causing you to not see the needs of certain people or people-groups?
2. What might be causing you to not hear God's Word for you to serve others no matter what their challenges or failings might be?
3. What might be causing you to not speak God's Word, lovingly, for His glory, whether by sharing the gospel, or by speaking words of healing?
4. Where are your eyes, your ears, your hands, or your feet still in bondage?
5. From what challenges has God released you? Where has God broken the chain of your bondage?
6. Where might you have fear in sharing or in serving people who are different than you? See 1 Cor. 12:21-23.
7. As an image-bearer of God, how can you ensure that others see and hear God and not you? Where can you make time to hear, see, and interact with people meaningfully, rather than quickly and superficially?

LEADER NOTES

- At MBC, we have a number of opportunities to serve externally and internally. Jill's House has become a national resource. How can your Church Group serve Jill's House?
- Access Ministry serves children and young adults with special needs through a variety of different programs and events. How can your Church Group serve through our Access Ministry?
- The MBC Deaf Ministry serves in many ways, including working to plant churches and spread the gospel internationally among unreached deaf communities. How can your Church Group serve the Deaf Ministry?

[Global Outreach 2022 Prayer Guide](#)



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