



Daily Verse and Comment

Mark 7:31-37

(31) Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. (32) There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. (33) After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. (34) He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). (35) At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. (36) Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. (37) People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

New International Version

The spiritual picture presented in the miracle of healing a deaf-mute man is of the sinner's moral and spiritual condition. The tongue of the unconverted person is as estranged from [God](#) as his ear. Even the most polished and educated sinner betrays an impediment in speech as soon as spiritual truths are introduced.

The methods that [Jesus](#) uses for healing this deaf-mute man are unique. They are not so much His means of healing but signs intended to explain to him how healing would come. Mark reveals the variations in [Christ's miracles](#). Some are healed in a crowd, some in solitude. Others are healed by a word, by a touch, or by clay. He heals a few at a distance and many when present. Sometimes the healing is instantaneous, while at other times, it is gradual. Because of His [wisdom](#) and omnipotence, God works through Christ as He deems best.

In this case, Jesus takes the man aside from the multitude. It appears that He wanted privacy to avoid any spectacle that might arise from unrestrained crowds ([Mark 7:33](#)). While away from the interruption of a noisy and pressing throng, quietly and privately, the man would be more attentive and receptive. It is important that Jesus awaken in the man a confident hope and an assured [faith](#) that he is to be healed.

Christ's response to those who brought the deaf-mute man for healing is simply to heal him. Although they presume to dictate the method of healing, Christ nevertheless honors their faith. He often works out His purpose in spite of us. However, this is not an excuse for our own failures but a demonstration of God's grace in granting us favor.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Deaf-Mute \(Part Two\)](#)

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