

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 201. The healing of a deaf and mute man



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Mark 7:31-37

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

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Mark 2:1-12; Isaiah 35:5-6a

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage makes a number of points about Jesus and His ministry which help us in our understanding of Him as healer and teacher, as man and as God.

It is a story of people having the faith to bring their loved one to Jesus to be healed – 'they begged him to place his hand on the man.'

It is an example of Jesus' great compassion. He not only wanted to heal the deaf and mute man but also thought of the man's feelings. He took him aside, away from the crowd, so that he was not surrounded by onlookers, and also so he didn't experience a great rush of noise as his ears were opened. The crowd recognised Jesus' compassion - 'He has done everything well,' they said.

Jesus wanted both physical and spiritual wholeness for the man. Saliva was known to be a physical healer. But Jesus looked up to Heaven to show the man that wholeness came from God.

Mark wanted to impress upon his readers that Jesus was the Son of God. He emphasised Jesus' divine power by noting that people 'were overwhelmed with amazement.' However, he also wanted to show Jesus' humanity. By adding the details of this encounter between Jesus and the man, it illustrated the personal relationship which Jesus had with those to whom He ministered.

Finally, Jesus did not want to be a celebrity. He quietly, humbly and faithfully carried out His ministry as prophesied in Isaiah 35.

### Reflections:

- As you read about Jesus in the Bible, try to imagine what sort of man He was. Think of His compassion, kindness, strength, humility and His love for both His Father in Heaven and those to whom He ministered on earth. Ask Him to teach you what you need to focus on in order to help you grow more like Him.
- Think about how you could help a loved one draw closer to God.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

