**Jesus Our Wonderful Healer**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Mark 7:31-37**

**Wednesday Evening**

**February 27, 2019**

**31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. 32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.**

The Ten Towns was a Gentile area, so this continues the emphasis of the previous miracle. Jesus had been in part of this region before.

**Mark 5:19-20**

19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." 20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Mark alone recorded the miracle of the healing of this deaf and mute man. Apparently several of this man’s friends brought him to Jesus; they had faith that Jesus could heal him.

The key to Mark’s recording of this miracle may be found in the Greek word translated speech impediment. That word is found only here and in the Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament in

**Isaiah 35:6**

“those who cannot speak will shout and sing.”

Mark saw the fulfillment of Isaiah’s words in the healing ministry of Jesus.

Saints, let’s take a closer look at verse 32

**32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.**

Notice Saints, that they begged Jesus. We need to understand that the attribute and character of God is Mercy!

**James 3:17**

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

**Psalm 145:8-9**

8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

**Proverbs 14:20-21**

20 The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends. 21 He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

**Psalm 145:8-9**

8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

Saints, Jesus had tremendous Mercy on us!

**Titus 3:4-8**

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.**

Saints, Jesus wanted to heal this man, but again he wasn’t looking for crowd acclaim in his healings. Thus, he took the man to a private place so they could be away from the crowd.

Saints, one possible reason for Jesus’ use of His saliva has to do with the beliefs of His contemporary culture. Several Roman writers and Jewish rabbis considered saliva to be a valid treatment for blindness.

Since the people of that day had a high view of saliva’s healing properties, Jesus used spit to communicate His intention to heal. Those being healed would have naturally interpreted Jesus’ spitting as a sign that they would soon be cured.

The greater need of each of those healed was the need for increased faith. Jesus recognized this spiritual need and offered a physical action as a means of raising their expectations and focusing their faith on Himself.

Saints, Jesus intended to deal with the man on a personal level—not use him as an advertisement of healing power.

Mark went on to further described this miracle in detail—apparently the disciples were with Jesus and the man. In this instance, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears and then spit onto his own fingers and touched the man’s tongue with the spittle.

Jesus often used touch in his healings. In addition, spittle was commonly recognized in the ancient world as having healing properties. The man responded in faith and desire for healing.

**34 Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.**

Saints, Jesus looked upward to God (the source of his power) and sighed. The sigh was probably in sympathy for the suffering man. Whether Mark recorded these details to describe what always happened in healings or whether this was unusual, is uncertain.

In any case, the healing took place. Jesus commanded that the man’s ears and mouth be opened. Immediately upon Jesus’ speaking the word, the deaf man could hear perfectly and speak plainly.

God’s inexhaustible power poured forth in the lives of His people is seen in various applications in Scripture. The Bible says the gospel itself is the power of God for salvation:

**Romans 1:16**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile”

**1 Corinthians 1:18-19**

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Saints, God is the ultimate source of power. All power comes from Him and is subject to Him:

**1 Chronicles 29:11–12**

11 “Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. 12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all”

Saints, let’s focus on the Power God has given us!

A Christian’s power—his ability to do anything of worth—is received from the Holy Spirit. When Jesus ascended on high, He told His disciples to wait for the power they needed:

**Acts 1:8**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

Without the Holy Spirit, the disciples would just be spinning their wheels, no matter how talented, energetic, or enthused they were in presenting the gospel.

A Christian’s power from God strengthens the inner being:

**Ephesians 3:16**

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

We do not lose heart, because, even “though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day”

A Christian’s power from God enables him or her to become a servant of the gospel:

**Ephesians 3:7**

“I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power”

A Christian’s power is not his own. After God used Peter to heal a lame beggar, the apostle explained to astonished onlookers that the man was healed not by Peter’s own power but through faith in the name of Jesus Christ:

**Acts 3:12-16**

12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. 14 But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. 16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

A Christian’s power from God enables him to endure suffering in the face of persecution:

**2 Timothy 1:7–8**

“The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God”

A Christian’s power is perfected in weakness:

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me”

A Christian finds power in prayer:

**James 5:16**

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective”

**36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."**

Saints, even though the miracle had been done in private, its results were obvious to the waiting crowd. The man, formerly deaf and barely able to talk, suddenly could hear and speak. Jesus asked the people not to talk about this healing because he didn’t want to be seen simply as a miracle worker. He didn’t want the people to miss his real message. But the people simply could not keep quiet, and so they continued to spread the good news of God.

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**