



DIVE DEEPER

READ Mark 7:31-37 (NIV)

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 Jesus to place his hand on him.

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."

SOUNDLESS & SPEECHLESS:

› (V. 32) **A man who was deaf and could hardly talk.** "Hardly talk" is the translation of mogilalos (μογιλαλος), mogi (μογι) "with difficulty," and lalos (λάλος) "speaking." He was not absolutely unable to talk, but he was deaf.

› (V. 33) **[Jesus] took him aside, away from the crowd.** (ἀπολαβομενος αὐτον [apolabomenos auton]). The secrecy here observed was partly to avoid excitement and partly to get the attention of the deaf and dumb demoniac. He could not hear what Jesus said. So Jesus shoved his fingers into his ears, spat, and touched his tongue. Saliva was by some regarded as remedial and was used by exorcists in their incantations. Whether this was a concession to the man's beliefs one does not know.

¿ In healing this man, Jesus used sign language and symbolic acts (which Mark did not explain) that uniquely suited the man's needs and caused him to exercise faith. What does this display about God?

› (V. 34) **With a deep sigh.** Stenazō (στεναζω) "to sigh or to groan." Jesus looked up in prayer, and sighed or groaned in sympathy.

¿ Why do you think Jesus sighed or groaned during this miracle?

¿ Also, what do you think it means that Jesus groaned in sympathy?

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. I'm really good at pantomiming--better than most people here.

2. I tend to look for nontraditional treatments for medical care.

3. Most faith healers are legit.

4. Many of our health ailments today are caused by evil spirits.

5. God wants to flabbergast you.



DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

› (V. 34) **Ephphatha.** (διανοιχθῆτι [dianoichthēti], be opened). Another one of Mark's Aramaic words preserved and transliterated and then translated into Greek. "Be thou unbarred" (Braid Scots). Jesus sighed (ἔστεναξεν [estenaxen]) as he looked up into heaven and spoke the word ἐφφαθα [ephphatha]. Somehow he felt a nervous strain in this complex case (deaf, dumb, demoniac) that we may not quite comprehend.

¿ This word [be opened] seems to indicate that Jesus believed this handicap had been caused by evil forces, and that they were the ones continuing to keep the man's ears closed and tongue bound. Does that match our view of some cases within modern medicine?

¿ What does this reveal about the characters of both God and Satan?

THE PEOPLE BECOME SPEECHLESS WHEN THE MAN SPEAKS:

› (V. 37) **He has done everything well.** (καλῶς πάντα πεποιήκεν [Kalōs panta pepoiēken]). The present perfect active shows the settled convictions of these people about Jesus. Their great amazement (ὑπερπερισσῶς ἐξεπλησσοντο [hyperperissōs exeplessonto]), imperfect passive and compound adverb, demonstrates an expression that they were completely flabbergasted and were confident of the championship of Jesus in this pagan land.

¿ Have you ever been flabbergasted by God? What happened?

¿ What new thing does this story reveal to you about the character of God?

NOTES

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MY PRAYER

1. How much am I allowing God to amaze me?
2. In what ways am I deaf and dumb to what God wants me to hear and say?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?