



Miracles Of Jesus

Lesson 7: Jesus Heals The Deaf And Mute

On two occasions, the gospel of Matthew tells us about Jesus' encounters with men who were unable to speak (who were also demon possessed). On the first occasion in Matthew 9:32-34, after Jesus had healed two blind men, one of these two men who were demon possessed and unable to speak (mute) was brought to Jesus. Perhaps the friends of the man had even just seen Jesus heal the two blind men and knew that He would be able to help this man.

The demon had made this man be unable to speak. For, whenever Jesus cast the demon out of the man, "the mute spoke" (Matthew 9:33)! You should notice that these men had not been able to help the mute and demon-possessed man. Instead, it was only God who could help him – and Jesus was the Son of God!

In a second instance, Jesus had another man who was brought to him. This was shortly after Jesus healed a man who had a withered hand. Matthew 12:22 says that this man who was brought to Jesus was demon-possessed, blind, and mute (unable to speak). Then, the Scriptures say that Jesus "healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw" (Matthew 12:22).

Whenever many people saw the miracle that Jesus did, they were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David" (Matthew 12:23)? Yes, Jesus was the descendant of King David. This is very important because God said that the Messiah (the Son of God) would be the descendant of David! Therefore, whenever these people saw Jesus doing such great miracles, they wondered if He was the one God had promised to send.

Then, in Mark 7:31-37, another example of Jesus' great healing power is given. He came to the Sea of Galilee. Once again, a man was brought to Jesus. This man had problems hearing and speaking.

The people who brought this deaf man who had a speech problem to Jesus begged Jesus to put His hand on him. Evidently, these people had faith that Jesus had the power to heal this man. Then, Jesus took the man away from all the people. He put His fingers in the man's ears and then spat and touched the man's tongue. After this, Jesus told the man, "Ephphatha." This word simply means, "Be opened."

"Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly." Jesus had once again demonstrated His great power of healing! Now, this man could hear and speak like he should. And, all of this happened *immediately*. Jesus' power was so great that it did not take a long time to work. Instead, Jesus' miracles worked as soon as He wanted them to work!

Then, as this man told other people about what Jesus had done, people were amazed at what they heard. The people said about Jesus, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Certainly, nobody but God had such great power! So, in doing this miracle, Jesus proved that He really is the Son of God!

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Written by Eric Krieg

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Study Questions:

1. What does it mean to be deaf and mute?
2. Why was the man in Matthew 9 mute?
3. After Jesus healed the man in Matthew 12, who did the people think was Jesus' father?
4. Was Jesus the Son of David?
5. What was wrong with the man in Mark 7?
6. What did Jesus do to heal him?
7. What does "ephphatha" mean?
8. What did the people say about Jesus after He healed this man?

Memory Verse:

“And all the multitudes were amazed and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’”
(Matthew 12:23).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: