

Read Mark 7:31-37

**31** Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Decapolis.

**32** A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

**33** Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue.

**34** Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha!" which means, "Be opened!" **35** Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

**36** Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news.

**37** They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

**Where did Jesus go next (v. 31)?** To the area of the Decapolis – which means "Ten Cities" in Greek.

**Since Decapolis is a Greek name what do you think the religion of the people who lived there was?** They were Gentiles – not Jews.

**Who did the people bring to Jesus to try and heal (v. 32)?** A deaf man who could barely talk.

**How did they suggest that Jesus try to heal him?** They begged Him to place His hands on him.

**Does Jesus have to actually touch someone in order to heal them?** Jesus can heal in many ways. He doesn't have to lay His hands on a person. He can heal just by speaking if He wanted to. He can even heal from far away.

**Where did Jesus take the deaf man (v. 33)?** Away from the crowd. **Why did Jesus take him away from the crowd?** We don't know. The Bible doesn't tell us.

**What did Jesus do next (vv. 33-34)?** He put His fingers into the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue. Then He looked up to heaven and prayed. **Wasn't that a strange way to try and heal someone?**

**How did the man respond (v. 35)?** His ears were opened and his tongue was loosened and he began to speak. It was a miracle! He was healed!

**What did Jesus tell the people and the man not to do (v. 36)?** Don't tell anyone.

**How did the people react to the miracle of healing the deaf man (vv. 36-37)?** They told everyone. They were amazed! They couldn't believe how powerful Jesus was.