

Mark 7:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

Analysis

They bring one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech—The Greek describes difficulty speaking—possibly mute or severely impaired. This rare word appears in Isaiah 35:6's Septuagint, prophesying messianic signs: the lame leaping, the dumb tongue singing. Mark's vocabulary evokes Isaiah's prophecy, signaling Jesus fulfills messianic expectations. The crowd's request for Jesus's touch demonstrates belief His touch conveys healing. This man's condition created profound isolation—unable to hear or speak clearly, he lived relationally disconnected. Healing restored not just physical faculties but relationship capacity. Spiritually, this pictures pre-salvation humanity: deaf to God's voice, unable to speak His praise, isolated from divine-human communion.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, disabilities carried severe stigma, often interpreted as divine judgment. Those unable to hear or speak faced limited opportunities and social marginalization. Jesus's consistent healing of such individuals demonstrated God's heart toward the marginalized. The crowd's compassion reflects earlier testimony's impact in the Decapolis—when the Gerasene proclaimed what Jesus did (Mark 5:20), skepticism gave way to expectant faith.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does deaf-muteness illustrate spiritual deafness to God's voice and inability to worship apart from Christ?
2. What does the crowd's compassionate action teach about intercessory faith?
3. How does Jesus's healing of the marginalized demonstrate the kingdom's upside-down values?

Interlinear Text

καὶ φέρουσιν αὐτῷ κωφὸν μογιλάλον
And they bring him one that was deaf and had an impediment in his speech
G2532 G5342 G846 G2974 G3424

καὶ παρακαλοῦσιν αὐτῷ ἵνα ἐπιθῇ αὐτῷ τὴν χεῖρα
And they beseech him to put him his hand
G2532 G3870 G846 G2443 G2007 G846 G3588 G5495

Additional Cross-References

Luke 11:14 (Parallel theme): And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.

Mark 5:23 (Parallel theme): And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.