

Mark 7:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

Analysis

He took him aside from the multitude—Jesus withdrew the man privately, demonstrating dignity sensitivity. Public spectacle was not Jesus's goal; healing the person was. This allowed undivided attention without overwhelming crowds. Jesus individualizes care. He **put his fingers into his ears, and spit, and touched his tongue**—employing physical actions communicating healing intention to a deaf man who could not hear verbal explanation. These accommodated the man's condition, using sensory communication he could perceive. Jesus did not need ritual—His word sufficed—but these actions met the man where he was, modeling incarnational ministry.

Historical Context

First-century cultures attributed healing properties to saliva. Jesus adapted cultural contexts, using familiar frameworks to communicate miraculous realities. Taking the man aside protected him from potential mockery. Crowds could seek entertainment rather than genuine faith. Jesus guarded dignity, allowing healing in relational intimacy rather than public spectacle.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's use of physical means demonstrate God's accommodating grace?
2. What does taking the man aside teach about ministry prioritizing individuals' dignity over public spectacle?
3. How does Jesus's varied healing methods challenge our tendency to formularize God's work?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπολαβόμενος	αὐτοῦ	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	ὄχλου	κατ'	ἰδίαν
And G2532	he took G618	him G846	from G575	G3588	the multitude G3793	aside G2596	G2398
ἔβαλεν	τοὺς	δακτύλους	αὐτοῦ	εἰς	τὰ	ὦτα	αὐτοῦ καὶ
and put G906	G3588	fingers G1147	him G846	into G1519	G3588	ears G3775	him G846 And G2532
πτύσας	ἥψατο	τῆς	γλώσσης	αὐτοῦ			
he spit G4429	and touched G680	G3588	tongue G1100	him G846			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 8:23 (Parallel theme): And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

Mark 5:40 (Parallel theme): And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.