

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 formalize God's work?

Interlinear Text

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