

# Mark 7:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him,  
Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

## Analysis

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**Looking up to heaven, he sighed**—Jesus's upward gaze directed the man's attention to heaven, the source of healing power. Though possessing intrinsic divine authority, Jesus modeled dependence on the Father (John 5:19). The Greek verb for sighed reveals Jesus's emotional response to human suffering—not clinical detachment but deep compassion. This echoes Romans 8:22-23, where creation groans under bondage. Jesus entered fully into humanity's suffering, bearing our griefs (Isaiah 53:4). **Ephphatha, that is, Be opened**—Mark preserves Jesus's Aramaic, then translates for Greek readers. The command addressed both ears and speech simultaneously—comprehensive healing restoring full communicative capacity.

## Historical Context

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Aramaic was the eastern Roman Empire's lingua franca. Jesus's ministry occurred in Aramaic; Gospels were written in Greek. Mark preserves Aramaic phrases adding authenticity. Jesus's groan reflects true humanity—though fully divine, He experienced grief and compassion. Hebrews 4:15 affirms He was tempted as we are, making Him a sympathetic High Priest understanding human suffering firsthand.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's sigh reveal His compassionate entry into suffering?
2. What does looking to heaven teach about dependence on God?
3. How does Jesus's use of the man's heart language demonstrate personal, intimate care?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἀναβλέψας	εἰς	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	ἐστέναξεν	καὶ	λέγει
And	looking up	to	G3588	heaven	he sighed	And	saith
G2532	G308	G1519		G3772	G4727	G2532	G3004
αὐτῷ	Εφφαθα	ὅ	ἐστιν	Διανοίχθητι			
unto him	Ephphatha	G3739	is	Be opened			
G846	G2188		G2076	G1272			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 6:41** (Parallel theme): And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

**Mark 5:41** (Parallel theme): And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

**John 11:41** (Parallel theme): Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

**Acts 9:34** (Parallel theme): And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

**Mark 8:12** (Parallel theme): And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

**Mark 15:34** (Parallel theme): And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

**John 11:33** (Parallel theme): When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

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