

LIFE OF A SERVANT

Eyes that See, Ears that Hear

Mark 7:24–37

*“People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said.
“He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” Mark 7:37*

1. After reading through the passage, write down some things that appear surprising or inappropriate to you.

2. What characteristics do the woman and the deaf and dumb man share in these two incidents?

3. As you ponder these two miracles, jot down some things that cause you to be “overwhelmed with amazement”. (vs. 37)

4. Who was the last person to fall at Jesus’ feet begging for healing of his daughter? (Mk. 5:23) What are the differences between him and the woman in this passage?

5. Why is Jesus’ response to the woman so harsh? (Acts 13:45–46)

6. She gets it—she really gets it! In last week’s passage the disciples are dull in their total lack of understanding, yet here this woman seems to understand the mystery of the Kingdom. What was God’s plan all along? (Eph. 3:4–6; Isaiah 49:6)

7. Why does her reply receive such an affirmative response from Jesus? (Matthew 15:28) How is she like Jacob? (Gen. 32:28)

8. In the previous controversy in Mark 7:1–23 Jesus shatters the traditional division of clean and unclean. What division is he starting to nudge together in this segment? (Galatians 3:26–29)
9. Elaborate in as many ways as you can how Jesus radically and uniquely ministers to this hurting man. How might this challenge your notions of how we are to share the “good news”?
10. The word *mogilalos* used to depict the man’s speech impediment is used only one other place in Scripture, in Isaiah 35:5–6, “and the tongue of the dumb (*mogilalos*) shout for joy”. Why does Mark make this link between these two texts?
11. How does Jesus’ healing of this man in this particular region of Sidon and the woman from Tyre reflect more than just individual healings but the beginning of the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan? (Consider Isaiah 35:1–10. Historical note: The areas of Tyre and Sidon are part of the desert wastelands of Lebanon.)
12. What might be the reason(s) for Jesus’ “deep sigh” and his glance up to heaven? (vs. 34)
13. Relay a situation in your life when God has needed to unplug your ears so that you might hear clearly and speak plainly, in a way that would glorify him.
14. Jesus commands the healed man and the intimate circle of onlookers not to tell anyone about the incident. What do they do, and why?
15. How does what they say give a glimpse into the divinity of Jesus? (Gen. 1:31; Ex. 4:11)
16. What is the only thing that can cause true hearing and seeing? (1 Cor. 2:9–10) Spend some time praying for yourself and others who may have clouded vision or self-centered, stuttering speech.