

Discussion Notes

Mark 7. 31-37

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Jesus continues to go to “unclean” places on the heels of his teaching on identity and the Mosaic Law.

7.31

- Jesus heads to the “ten towns”. He’s been before and cast out “Legion” from the possessed man.
- Last time Jesus was there the people asked him to leave. He returns even when he is misunderstood and underappreciated. He’s persistent.
- *The insertion of truth and the opportunity for transformation trumps popularity every time.*
- We need to go where Jesus is needed.

7.32

- The man’s friends know Jesus is good bet to see their friend healed. They are desperate for him.
- Hope placed in Jesus leads to good things, even in the midst of desperate circumstances.
- *It is our story that establishes the ground for genuine hope.*

7.33

- Jesus does not do this miracle publically, so as to spare this man from becoming a spectacle.
- Jesus spits and sticks his finger in the man’s ear for a number of reasons. The most compelling is that there was a ancient ritual associated with idol worship where the idol maker would perform a ceremony in which they would touch the idol’s mouth with saliva in order to “make it speak” or animate it.
- Jesus performs this ritual, and turns things right side up. We make idols in our image, but can’t make them alive. We worship death things. God made us in his image, and he is the one who brings us life, animation, and healing.
- Isaiah 35. 5-7
- This is also a kind of sign language. Jesus considers the man’s needs and communicates through touch!
- *Love is best practiced where people live. We meet them where they are.*

v.34-35

- Jesus expresses and sighs to heaven.
- A groan or expression reminds us that Jesus feels deeply and interacts with the Father.
- The ears are opened!

v.36-37

- Good news travels fast, even as it's hot off the press and only just beginning.

Discussion Questions:

- How might Jesus' persistence and pursuit of humankind inform our living today as we aim to share the Gospel?
- What does it mean to share the Gospel like Jesus does?
- How do we consider others deeply as we share the Gospel? How do we honor and love people as we do it.
- What's the best way to share the Gospel with the people you live amongst?