



UNIONTOWN  
BIBLE CHURCH

**Sermon Guide**  
**February 22: Mark 7:31-37**

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Jesus treats people with dignity, not as projects. He pulled the deaf man aside privately and gave him his full attention.
2. Jesus groans with us, not at us. His compassion moves Him to feel our pain in a broken world.
3. Jesus doesn't just repair—He re-creates. The healing was immediate because the Creator was restoring His creation.
4. We're called to be storytellers, not sales reps. Witnessing means sharing what we've personally seen, heard, and experienced.
5. The formerly demon-possessed man prepared the way for Jesus' return to the Decapolis by simply telling his story.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Mark 7:31-37 together. What stands out to you about the way Jesus healed this deaf man compared to other healings in Mark's Gospel?
2. Why do you think Jesus took the man aside privately rather than healing him in front of the crowd? What does this teach us about how Jesus values individuals?
3. What does Jesus' groaning (verse 34) reveal about his heart toward human suffering and brokenness?
4. Have you ever experienced feeling alone even when surrounded by people? How does knowing that Jesus groans with you (verse 34) rather than at you change your perspective on bringing your brokenness to Him? What has Jesus touched and restored in your life when you are in the middle of crowded loneliness?
5. Which is harder for you: keeping quiet when Jesus says "be quiet" or speaking up when Jesus says "go tell"? Why do you think that is?

6. Read Isaiah 35:4-6. How does understanding this Old Testament prophecy deepen your appreciation for what Jesus was doing in Mark 7?
7. The crowd said Jesus "has done everything well" (verse 37)—echoing Genesis 1. What does it mean that Jesus is in the business of re-creation, not just repair? How does this apply to our spiritual lives?
8. Compare Mark 5:1-20 with Mark 7:31-37. How did the demon-possessed man's obedience to "go tell" prepare the region for Jesus' return? What does this teach us about the power of personal testimony?
9. We've taken the greatest news in human history and treated it like a socially inappropriate dinner conversation. Why do you think Christians often find it easier to talk about everything except Jesus?
10. Who are the people God has placed around you who know about your politics, hobbies, and medical history, but don't know your Jesus story? Name them specifically (you don't have to share names aloud if it's too personal).
11. What is your story? If you had to share in 2-3 minutes what Jesus has done for you, what would you say? (Consider practicing with your group.)

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Option 1: Write Your Story - Take 30 minutes this week to write out your testimony in 3 parts. Keep it to one page so you can share it naturally in conversation. What was your life like before Jesus? How did you encounter Jesus? How has your life changed since?
2. Option 2: Share Your Story - Identify one person from your answer to question 10 above. Pray for an opportunity this week to share part of your Jesus story with them. Don't force it—just be ready and willing when the opportunity comes.
3. Option 3: Practice Storytelling - Partner with someone in your group this week. Practice sharing your testimonies with each other (3-5 minutes each). Give each other feedback and encouragement. Pray together for opportunities to share with others.
4. Spend a few minutes in silence reflecting on these questions. Share with the group if you feel comfortable. What part of my life still feels "bound" or "stopped up" like the deaf man's ears and tongue? Am I willing to let Jesus touch those broken places? What would it look like for Jesus to say "Ephphatha—be opened" over that area of my life?