

Return Through Decapolis, Many Miracles

Healings in Decapolis

Matthew 15:29-31

Mark 7:31-37

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Texts:

Matthew 15:29-31,

29. And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

30. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

31. Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Mark 7:31-37,

31. And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the Sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

32. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

33. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

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

35. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

36. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

37. And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Commentary:

I. Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre (after how long we do not know) where he had healed the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman (Matthew 15:21-28), passed through Sidon, and returned to walk along by the Sea of Galilee to the Decapolis, the area of the “ten cities,” to the east of the Sea of Galilee.

Note 1: According to Pliny the ten cities were Damascus, Dion, Gadara, Gerasa (Galasa), Hippos, Canatha, Pella, Philadelphia, Paphana, and Scythopolis.

Note 2: Jesus had healed in this area previously. **Mark 5:1-20, And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh**

unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

II. Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down.

- A. Great crowds came to Jesus bringing the lame, blind, crippled, mute and many people with other illnesses and disabling conditions.
- B. The sick were laid at **Jesus'** feet as would be the case with people today on stretchers.
- C. Jesus healed them!
- D. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing.

E. The people must have believed the sick and disabled would be helped. Otherwise they would never have brought their friends and loved ones to Jesus.

F. The miracles were so wondrous that even believers who had brought these patients to Jesus were absolutely amazed, overwhelmed with amazement.

1. The multitudes declared, “He had done everything well!”

2. They further said, “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

G. Here was no “ordinary healer.”

H. He healed all manner of conditions (nothing was impossible for Jesus. No condition was incurable with Jesus.) instantly and completely.

III. Mark’s Gospel tells in detail about one person, a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, who was healed on this occasion.

A. Those who brought this man to Jesus **begged** Jesus to “place his hand” on him with a view to his being healed.

B. Jesus took him aside away from the crowd.

C. Jesus put his fingers in the man’s ears. A person who is deaf from birth has major problems in learning to talk even if no other contributing factors exist.

D. Jesus then spit on his finger and touched the man’s tongue.

1. Remember other instances when Jesus used his saliva to give sight to the blind?

2. **John 9:1-9, And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.**

3. **Mark 8:22-26, And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 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 aught. And he looked up and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.**

E. Jesus then, after touching the man's ears and tongue, looked up to heaven and with a great sigh said to him (the man), "Ephphatha!" (Be opened.)

1. **Psalm 121:1, 2, I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.**
2. **Mark 6:41. 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.**
3. Looking to heaven teaches that all blessings come from God.
4. **John 11:41, 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 has heard me.**
5. The sigh indicated Jesus' concern for the man to be healed.

I. At that moment the man both heard and spoke! He was instantly, completely cured!

IV. The multitudes praised the God of Israel recognizing the connection between Jesus and Jehovah, the God of Israel!

A. Jesus had commanded the people not to tell anyone about these healings.

1. Jesus was not seeking the praise of men. We should not seek human acclaim for our Christian service.
 2. Jesus did not want to give his enemies a premature occasion to oppose his ministry.
- B. However, the more Jesus forbade the multitudes to speak of these miracles of healings, the more they broadcast the news!
- C. How did Jesus feel about their disobedience? What punishment came upon them because of their disobedience?
- D. Was this a fitting way for these people to show their gratitude to Jesus for his blessing them and their loved ones?
- E. Are our responses to God's blessings appropriate?

Healings in Decapolis

Questions

1. Jesus went up into a _____ which was near the _____ of _____ and sat down there.

2. Great _____ came unto Jesus bringing with them the _____, _____, _____ and Jesus _____ them.

3. The _____ was amazed when they saw the _____, the _____ to be _____, the _____ to _____, and the _____ to _____; and they _____ the _____ of _____.

4. Mark tells of Jesus' healing a person who was _____ and _____ impaired by putting his _____ in his ears, and after _____, touching his _____ with the _____.

5. Jesus commanded that the man's ears _____ His _____ were _____, and the _____ of his _____ was removed and he began to _____.

6. The multitudes were _____ and said, "He has done _____; he makes even the _____ to _____ and the _____ to _____.

7. Jesus _____ the _____ not to tell anyone about these _____. However the more Jesus forbade the

_____ to speak of these _____ of
_____, the more they _____ the
_____.

8. Specify two other instances of healing in which Jesus' saliva was involved. _____

9. Jesus looked up to _____ with a deep _____.
Looking up indicates all blessings come from _____. The
_____ indicated Jesus' _____ for those in need
of his help.

10. How did Jesus feel about the disobedience of the multitudes who went everywhere telling about the miracles Jesus performed. _____

