



*Sight & Sound*

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

✝ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.

Mark 7:31-37 ESV

Tyre & Sidon are about 40 miles northwest of the Sea of Galilee as the crow flies.

Notice this deaf-mute man was first privately taken aside by Christ away from being made a spectacle before the crowds to preserve his dignity & perhaps not to encourage any further mania about Jesus. It has also been speculated that Jesus was disappointed with the coldness of these people for not being compassionate about his infirmities being birth defects caused by humanities fallen Sin nature. Any of these reasons could be the cause for when Jesus audibly sighed before healing this man.

Again, just like our Christ's previous adult healings- many people knew or knew of this man, and they were astonished which only made the crowds bigger thusly making it harder for Jesus to travel.

Likewise, additional Biblical study material does suggest that similar to the young girl Jesus had previously arose from the dead- that keeping this man's healing a secret like hers was to prevent any future danger to him as a living witness of Jesus's Divine authority from the jealous Pharisees.

However, unconsidered within this thought is the location of the healing.

This man was quite safe as in being out of reach of the Pharisee's well within Pagan Gentile territory..

So, fear of the Jewish religious elite does not seem very likely. (As for proof of the man's safety in this region: Mary Magdalene financed a statue of Jesus in the Decapolis region that historian's reference had stood for 3+ centuries)

As for the use of spittle in the deaf-mute man's healing; this was a common folk remedy treatment in Jesus Time as described by each Pliny Natural History XXVIII & Tacitus Histories IV with the thought being that they never worked. This supposed commonly accepted cure for these troubles.

However, this DID work for Jesus much to the shock and dismay of the people.

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled here of each physical hearing healed by Messiah & the Gentile peoples.

✝ Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Isaiah 55:3 KJV

This promise unto all peoples was previously exclusive to David as in Jews only. Isaiah 55:5 NIV makes this plain:

✝ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

✝ Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, A leader and commander for the peoples. (All 3 verses are fulfilled in and by Jesus)

Isaiah 55:4 NASB

A short time later Jesus will travel to Bethsaida also on the Northeastern portion of the Sea of Galilee which itself was undergoing a controversy over the Tetrarch Phillip recently in 30 AD/CE renaming the city to Julias. This was a shmoozing to the honor of Livia-Julia wife of the Roman Emperor Augustus. (Octavian)

✠ Then they came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to Jesus and asked him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside of the village. Then he spit on his eyes, placed his hands on his eyes and asked, “Do you see anything?” <sup>24</sup> Regaining his sight he said, “I see people, but they look like trees walking.” <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus placed his hands on the man’s eyes again. And he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Jesus<sup>l</sup> sent him home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.”

Mark 8:22-25 NET

Notice just like the deaf-mute man Jesus had previously taken aside to make his healing each more personable and personal- likewise, Jesus does the very same for this blind man by healing him privately while additionally within this sequence of verbs as they are used in the original Greek do suggest this blind man was kneeling when regaining his sight then seeing while looking up at Christ. This necessarily implies the man was not born blind but became blind by age, disease, or event. This because to “regain” one’s sight must mean someone had to have been able to see previously. Again, the Greek specifies the man then opened his eyes wide open the second time Jesus touched him improving his sight. Much conjecture has been placed on this event as to Why? Did Jesus have to touch this man twice. This IS the only instance in scripture of a gradual healing. The answer does appear that it was the man himself who required Jesus to intervene with his blindness two times. Once for each near and then for far sightedness.

As in English fails to convey that the man required extra effort from our Lord and Savior to restore him as whole. There are certainly many thoughts and conversations possible with that revelation of consideration as for our Lord being willing to restore us even When? our brokenness is immense. Indeed, the Cambridge Bible for schools & colleges does teach that Jesus heals all the aspects of us. Again salvia in Jesus Time was often mixed with a dry powder produced in Laodicea of Revelation chapter 3 fame making a salve for eye infections and or irritation.

It has also been noted here that Jesus fully restored the man’s sight when it became plain to him When? he could see (comprehend) it was Jesus who was healing him.

Further there are some early editions of the Gospel of Mark that expands Jesus’s instructions unto the man to not go into the village but to keep his healing from GOD to himself- that Christ Jesus specified for him to go directly home apparently outside of the village and tell no one.

Unlike the Pharisee’s of Israel or the Pagan leaders of this Gentile region Jesus was not seeking any claim of fame He was only concerned with helping this man and him finding his home as in Jesus’s “Way” out of darkness each physically and Spiritually.

Another Old Testament prophecy for non-Jewish Gentiles fulfilled here:

✠ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Isaiah 9:2 RSV