

Sunday, August 28, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 7:31-37: What Happened to the Kingdom?

### Mark 7:31-37

- *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.*
- Mark 7:31—once again we see that Jesus is on the move. He leaves the coastal regions of Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean Sea and moves inland back towards the Sea of Galilee and the coasts of Decapolis. The region of Decapolis was located Southeast of the Sea of Galilee.
- Matthew 15:29-31—in the context of the passage Jesus leaves Tyre and Sidon (verse 21) and come nigh unto the Sea of Galilee (Decapolis region). Matthew speaks of multiples of lame, blind, deaf, maimed, and many others who were brought to Christ for healing. Mark focuses on one deaf man who had a speech impediment, whom Jesus took aside privately and healed.
- Mark 7:32—a man that was deaf and had a speech impediment was brought to Jesus for healing. They beseech or beg Jesus to place his hands upon him.
- Mark 7:33—Jesus takes the man aside or removes him from the multitude. Then Jesus places his fingers in the man’s ears, spits, and then touches his tongue. This is not the only time that Jesus used spit when he healed someone.
  - Mark 8:23
  - John 9:6-10
- Mark 7:34—looking upward toward heaven Jesus “sighed” or groaned (Romans 8:23, II Corinthians 5:2, 4) and command the man’s ears and tongue to “Be opened” in Aramaic (Ephphatha).
- Mark 7:35—straightway or immediately the man’s ears were opened and his tongues was loosed and he spake plain discernable language.
- It is worth noting the different ways that we have seen Jesus healed people throughout our study Mark’s gospel. Sometimes Christ just spoke the word, others He laid his hands upon them; some

merely touched his clothes, with some Christ used outward means such as spit or clay made from spittle.

- Mark 7:36-37—although Christ charged those that were healed to tell no man, the more he charged them the more they publicized the miracles.
- Matthew 15:30-31—as the multitude wondered at the dumb speaking, the maimed being made whole, the lame walking, and the blind gloried the God of Israel. For some they no doubt knew the prophetic significance of the miracles they were witnessing.
- Isaiah 35:5-6—these are all things that will happen for Israel once Christ sits upon the throne of David in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant. The blind seeing, deaf hearing, lame man leaping, and dumb man signing were all a prophetic foretaste of the glories of kingdom that John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the 12 Apostles were announcing was at hand in the gospels.
  - Matthew 3:2
  - Matthew 4:17
  - Matthew 10:7
  - Mark 1:14-15—the time was fulfilled according to prophecy for the kingdom of God to be announced as at hand, thus you have the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom i.e., the good news that the kingdom of God was near.
- It is important to realize that the kingdom was not formally offered to Israel until the early Acts period. The reception of the kingdom was conditioned upon Israel's repentance for her part in the death of Christ.
- Acts 2:22-23, 36—the entire house of Israel is held responsible and culpable in the death of their king.
- Acts 2:37-38—what does Israel need to do? Repent, change their mind about who Christ was and submit to the gospel of the kingdom.
- Acts 3:12-17—who does Peter hold responsible for the death of the Prince of life? Israel and their leaders.
- Acts 3:18—the prophecies regarding the sufferings of Christ were fulfilled in his death upon the cross.
  - I Peter 1:10-11—Peter is telling up in Acts 3:18 that all the prophets had to say about Christ's suffering were fulfilled. What then is left unfulfilled as of Acts 3:18? The glory that should follow.
- Acts 3:19-21—all Israel had to do to receive the glories of the kingdom was repent for their part in the death of Christ. This has been the subject of the prophets since the world began.

- What happened? Where is the kingdom? What happened to it? It's establishment was postponed because of the unbelief of Israel. It is then and only then that God reveals to the Apostle Paul the mystery of the church the body of Christ.
  - Romans 16:25
  - Ephesians 3:1-9