

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 16, 2015

Passage: Mark 7:31-37

Memory Passage: Mark 7:37

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 7:31-37.** Locate Tyre, Sidon, the Sea of Galilee, and the Decapolis on a map. How long do you think it would have taken Jesus to travel this distance? What kind of trip would it have been?

(b) Why do you think Jesus travels north to head south-east, and why does He go to the Decapolis (lit. “10 cities”)?

(c) What is different about the way Jesus is received on this trip compared with His first trip to the Decapolis (5:1-20)? How do you account for these differences?

(d) What is the relationship between 7:24-30 and 7:31-37?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 7:31-37.** What does the request of the people (“they begged him to lay his hand on him”) reveal about what the people thought of Jesus, His abilities, and His willingness to act?

(b) Why does Jesus take the man “aside from the crowd” before He acts?

(c) Since Jesus could have healed the man with a word or a thought (cf. Matt. 8:13), why did He heal the man using such curious means?

(d) Why did Jesus “sigh” as He looked to heaven and commanded the man’s ears to be opened?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 7:31-37 & Is. 35:1-10.** Isaiah 28-33 comprises six laments containing warnings against being self-reliant rather than trusting in God interspersed with hopeful promises of blessing to those who do trust in God. Chapters 34 & 35 reveal the end result of history: either judgment (34) or salvation (35). What event ushers in the salvation promised (35:2, 4)?

(b) What is the result of this coming of God in which His glory and majesty are revealed (35:5-6a)?

(c) The Greek word translated “speech impediment” in Mark 7: 32 (ESV) is the same word used in the Greek translation of the OT (called the Septuagint, or LXX) in Isaiah 35:5 translated “mute,” and these are the only two places in the Greek Scriptures where this word appears. What do you think Mark had in mind for us to understand about Jesus’ healing in Mark 7:31-37?

(d) Why do you think there is a more zealous disobedience of Jesus’ command to keep silent than in previous instances?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 7:31-37.** Would this crowd have made the connection between their proclamation in v. 37, “he even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak,” and Is. 35:5-6? Why or why not?

(b) Does Jesus command silence for the same reasons as He has so far in Mark? Given your answer to (a) above, can you think of any other reasons Jesus might have commanded silence in this particular instance?

(c) Every week I write application questions for you to answer, and I design them by asking myself, “Given the truths found in this text in its context, how does it apply to my life today? What commands are there to obey? What principles to follow or implement? What behaviors or thoughts should I start or stop? What do I learn about Jesus and why does it matter? How do these truths help me love God and my neighbor more?” But today I want you to consider these questions and write 3-5 applications that you derive from this text.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 6:30-8:26.** As you read this entire passage, answer the following questions: (1) What themes flow throughout and in what ways do they connect these ten stories? (2) How does Mark’s placement of the three healing stories help us fully understand the disciples’ continued lack of understanding? (3) Why are there two feeding miracles?

DATE: August 16, 2015

PASSAGE: Mark 7:31-37

Ephphatha!