

The Book of Mark:

Jesus Gets Up Close and Personal

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Mark 7:31-37 (NIV)

*Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*

*⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.*

Isaiah 35:5-6 (NIV)

*And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.*

*The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.*

*⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.*

*But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the Lord has rescued will return.*

Isaiah 35:8-10 (NIV)

Their Takeaway: The Kingdom of God is for _____.

Our Takeaway: Jesus touches us at our _____ point of _____ and _____,

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

Bonus Takeaway: God, not _____, determines our _____.