"Faith, a Demon and a Deaf Man"

July 6, 2025 Mark 7:24-37

Introduction

What might the connection be between the previous incident, which was Jesus clarifying what was clean/unclean, and these two miracles?

Jesus enters "UNCLEAN" territory!

Jesus, the Gentile Woman and a Demon (Mark 7:24-26):

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

- What is the significance of Jesus entering the region of Tyre and Sidon?
- How does she approach Jesus?

Jesus Responds (Mark 7:27-30):

And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. (See Genesis 12:3, Romans 11)

- In Jesus's response, who are the "children"? who are the "dogs"?
- Jesus is talking about God's plan, or *order* of bringing about salvation. (Romans 1:16)
- How does Jesus show compassion and hold out hope in His response?

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Jesus and the Deaf Man (Mark 7:31-33):

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 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. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. (See Isaiah 35:6)

- Jesus was in this region before (Mark 5:1-20)
- Why might Jesus have touched the deaf man in this *unique* way?

Jesus Heals the Man (Mark 7:34-37)

And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha", that is, "Be opened". And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak".

- How does this story relate to Jesus previous trip into the Decapolis?
- How is the reaction of the people different?

Jesus Crosses Boundaries (Mark 7:34-37)

- These "Gentile" miracles comes directly after Jesus rebuke the Pharisees, and clarified what *actually* makes a person unclean.
- Jesus then crosses national, ethnic, social and religious boundaries!

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