



We are currently following Jesus as He brought His healing touch to people in need.

Our last time together, they brought to Him a man who was deaf and couldn't speak, at least not that well.

Perhaps his deafness contributed to his inability to form words correctly.

And like we said;

When you don't hear well, you don't speak well.

When you don't hear from God, you say dumb things.

Well.

As we saw, Jesus plunged his fingers into the man's ears and said, "Be opened."

And lo and behold, he could hear.

But wait!

He still couldn't speak well.

This is the next touch of Jesus we are going to see.

Let's review:

Mk 7:31 *He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.*

v.32 *They *brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they *implored Him to lay His hand on him.*

v.33 *Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears,*

v.33 *and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva;*

"with the saliva" is in italics

Some say

1. Jesus spit on His finger and touched his tongue, others say;

2. "After spitting, He touched his tongue"

All I know is, I wasn't there. Nor does it matter.

v.34 *and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh,*

"deep sigh" *stenazo stenazo* – groan, moan

Jesus is showing that this miracle is coming from God. Jesus always depended on His Heavenly Father for the things He did and even the words He spoke.

*He *said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!"*

v.35 *And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly.*

v.36 *And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it.*

Can you blame him?

After all,

He couldn't hear and couldn't speak properly. And now he was delivered from this malady.

v.37 *They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

This, I believe is the key for us:

It was only through the touch of Jesus that this man could gain his hearing and his ability to speak clearly.

He is a picture of us:

We come into this world deaf and dumb until we experience the Jesus touch.

Then, everything changes.

How do you know when Jesus has touched your tongue?

Like this man, you begin to speak more clearly and intelligently.

Here is what God says though His Word about how we should speak;

1. Jesus said in:

Mt 12:36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

"careless" negative, useless, barren

Ie.

A word spoke without care.

Will it give help or harm?

We must ask ourselves, what is the good of what I am about to say?

- Am I a curser?
- Am I a name caller?
- Am I a blamer?
- Do I condemn?

2. This may be surprising

Ecc 3:7 (There is) A time to be silent and a time to speak.

Sometimes the best things said are never said.
A wise person knows when to hold their tongue.

One time I gave you the definition of discernment:
"The ability to evaluate the situation, timing and person you are speaking to.

James said it like this:

Ja 1:19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

3. When Jesus touches your tongue

speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. Titus 2:1

"fitting" suitable, proper

Discern the moment

Discern your audience

Here is a beautiful picture to God:

Pr 25:11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

On the contrary is:

"A box of onions in a basket of manure."

So;

Let God touch your tongue and be a Col 4:6 believer:

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.