# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 7

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Mark 7 captures the increasing hostility the religious leaders brought towards Jesus because of Jesus’ claims and actions. The chapter opens with an accusation the Pharisees and scribes made towards Jesus, of which Jesus refutes. Midway through the chapter, Jesus leaves these people and goes to an area of the Gentiles and casts out a demon. At the end of the chapter Jesus returns to the region of the Sea of Galilee and heals a man who is deaf and unable to speak. It is this final story that might be best for a club talk since it shows Jesus’ divinity and a person whose life is radically changed through his encounter with Jesus (which is what we hope and pray to happen in our club meetings). Here is an outline:   1. Location (not all that important) v.31 2. “They” brought a man who is deaf and had a speech impediment v.32    1. We don’t know who “they” are… but they “begged” Jesus (pretty good friends if you ask me)    2. Deaf / Speech impediment (see below for details) 3. Jesus’ actions v.33-34    1. In private (“taking him aside”)    2. Finger in his ears / after spitting touched the man’s tongue 4. The moment of healing v.35    1. Eyes *opened*    2. Tongue *released* – spoke plainly 5. Jesus’ request (tell no one, keep a secret) / “They” respond vv.36-37   *Note: Donald English wrote: “Healings are the signs of the kingdom, not the kingdom itself.” Jesus is the king, not a magician. There might be other healers or ways to be healed (doctors), but there is only one King (Messiah): Jesus.* |
| Possible main point(s):   * The secret is out!... Jesus is God. Jesus is king. Jesus heals like no one else. Follow Jesus today. * Will you open your ears to hear this?... Jesus is God. Jesus is king. Follow Jesus today. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus is God. Jesus is compassionate. Jesus faced incredible opposition, difficulty, and stress. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Our problems and issues are opportunities to turn to Jesus so that we can know God. |
| Relevant technical details:   * *Deaf and speech impediment* (v.32) = The speech impediment could be translated “tied up in knots.” This word is used only twice in the Bible: here, and in the Greek translation of Isaiah 35:5-6, which also speaks of the deaf being healed. Jesus’ crowd would have been familiar with this passage, thus, Jesus’ actions communicate that he is the one that the Jewish people were expecting to come to save them. Read Isa. 35 in your prep to help understand this. * *Fingers into his ears / spitting touched his tongue* (v.33) = Jesus’ actions may sound unusual to us today, but his actions would have been a signal in Jesus’ day to anyone, including a man who could not hear what was happening, that Jesus was going to do something special to heal his hearing and speaking. * *Tell no one* (v.36) = There are various ideas why Jesus, from time to time, asked people to not tell anyone about his miracles. This question often comes up in my Campaigners. I think we see Jesus make this request in the early and middle parts of his ministry because he knows the religious leaders would kill him. Late in his ministry Jesus doesn’t attempt to keep things quiet, he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey to cheers of “Hosanna!” * *“He does all things well”* (v.37) = This is an echo back to Genesis 1:31 (God saw all he had made and it was “very good”). The phrase “He does all things well” is an indirect way of them saying “This must be God, the creator.” |
| Possible illustrations:   * Door open: Find a door or a door on a small cabinet or similar to illustrate something being “closed” or “open.” The man’s ears were opened. Ask if they are open (tonight) to Jesus’ work in their lives. * Secret: Tell the students that you have a secret to tell them. Consider opening your talk with a secret you heard in the past or a secret about you that they do not know. Transition by telling them that you want them to hear a spiritual secret. Close by telling them what Jesus told the man to keep secret: Jesus is God, king, and wants to work in your life. * Earplugs, tape: Put earplugs in your ears to illustrate that some of us aren’t open (or haven’t been listening) to the truth about Jesus. Similarly, use tape to tape your mouth to illustrate “responding” to Jesus tonight. * Show a video of a person hearing for the first time: one example is [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsOo3jzkhYA). * Beethoven’s last words. The famous composer Beethoven was, amazingly, deaf. His last words before he died were “I shall hear in heaven.” Challenge them that anyone can hear today, even if they have been spiritually deaf, no matter what the reason might be… hear right now that Jesus is God. Jesus is king. Follow him today. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 7 (ESV)

**Traditions and Commandments**

**7**Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, **2**they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. **3**(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, **4**and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) **5**And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” **6**And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“ ‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their heart is far from me;

**7** in vain do they worship me,

teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

**8**You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

**9**And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! **10**For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ **11**But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban” ’ (that is, given to God)— **12**then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, **13**thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

**What Defiles a Person**

**14**And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15**There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” **17**And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. **18**And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19**since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20**And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. **21**For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22**coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23**All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

**The Syrophoenician Woman’s Faith**

**24**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. **25**But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. **26**Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27**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.” **28**But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” **29**And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” **30**And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

**Jesus Heals a Deaf Man**

**31**Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32**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. **33**And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. **34**And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” **35**And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36**And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37**And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”