

SCRIPTURE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark 7: 32-37 Jesus heals a deaf person

This incident is recorded only in Mark and occurs in Gentile territory. In locating the incident here Mark may have been acknowledging the Church's mission to Gentiles, to non-Jewish peoples.

Jesus reaches out to heal one suffering from deafness and a speech impediment. He takes the man away from the crowd and lays his hands upon him. Following this act the man's hearing and speech are restored.

In asking the healed man to keep this event to himself, Mark is indicating that Jesus is much more than simply a healer of physical ailments. It is also a warning that excessive attention might frustrate his ministry. The man ignores this instruction and proceeds to proclaim Jesus' mission, in contrast to those who have followed Jesus, who have heard his words, and yet have not listened to his message. Here the onlookers clearly witness the physical cure and this serves to highlight the true nature of Jesus' identity.