

Small Group Study Notes

Mark 7:31-37

1. The Decapolis is foreign territory; Jesus had been there only once before – 5:1-20. His reception this time is much warmer. Do we have any clues as to why?
2. This chap is a citizen of the Decapolis – he is a foreigner, loyal to the Decapolis and not Israel. What does it mean to be a loyal Australian while still saying “Jesus is Lord”?
3. “Could hardly talk” is a phrase that appears in only one other place – Isaiah 35:6. Isaiah 35 is a prophecy about the restoration of all things; eg heaven. Remembering this chap is not Jew what are we being told?
4. What were the reasons for Jesus taking this chap aside?
5. Why do you think Jesus used such a complex method of healing on this particular chap?
6. Why did Jesus use his spittle?
7. What do you think the physical interaction between Jesus and this chap reveals about Jesus?
8. Jesus prayer for this man was that his ears be opened (v34). Why was Jesus so keen that he hears above all other considerations?
9. Before the man hears anything he “sees” the compassion of Jesus in the actions of Jesus. How can (do) we as a church community demonstrate the love of God to those who are still deaf to what we are preaching?