

JESUS: THE SERVANT AT WORK

VOLUME TWO

STUDY EIGHT

Taking Time for Someone in Need

Mark 7:31–37

Lord, let our lives be marked by kindness, grace, love, understanding, and mercy. Just let our work drip with excellence.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IN our fast-paced and always-connected world, we live in a state of constant busyness—doing multiple tasks at the same time, having the itch to check our phones for the latest information, and trying to catch up with everyone everywhere. Yet, we often sense that something is missing. We wonder how to live in a way that will have an impact in eternity.

Jesus' three years of ministry touched the world. Compassion flowed out of Him like cool water in a mountain stream. Through the words He spoke and the attention He gave to the marginalized—the lepers, the paralyzed, the deaf—Jesus quenched the thirsty souls of everyone He met. Through the cross, He met our deepest need. As Paul wrote, “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners” (Romans 5:6).

In his account of Jesus' life on earth, Mark included a brief but deeply moving story of a man in a gentile region who could not hear and had a speech impediment. This story, mentioned only in Mark's gospel, demonstrates how Jesus brought sound, freedom, and joy to a man who knew only silence, limitation, and sorrow.

In our previous *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we learned from the Canaanite woman how to display the kind of faith that Jesus would call “great.” In the passage for this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we'll discover, in Jesus' deep compassion for a disabled man, some simple yet profound principles that will teach us the importance of *taking time for someone in need*.



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES
BIBLE STUDIES

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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Pause. Think of the way God has sustained you thus far in your study of the Servant of God—Jesus—in the gospel of Mark. Take time to reflect on His wisdom that guided your observation of Scripture, deepened your understanding of His truths, and challenged you to live accordingly. In your own words, express your deep gratitude for the Lord's goodness.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

After Jesus helped the Canaanite woman in Tyre, He journeyed to Sidon before turning southeast toward the Sea of Galilee and on to the Decapolis. People in this gentile region had already heard of or witnessed Jesus' miraculous power—when He cast out the evil spirits from the demonized man and gave him his life back (Mark 5:1–20).

Mark's gospel does not specify where in the Decapolis this account took place. Nonetheless, as we turn to the Scriptures, note the faith expressed by this gentile community, who brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment.



Observation: Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

Take the first step of the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, observation, by thoughtfully reading [Mark 7:31–37](#) in various translations.¹

Taking the Long Way Home—Mark 7:31

Pay close attention to the details Mark gave us about Jesus' journey. What specific information did Mark give about His journey in Mark 7:31?

Now immediately you know that He's not surrounded by Jewish people but gentiles. One scholar suggests it took Him as much as eight months to make that walk. That's a long way. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Hearing a Request for Help—Mark 7:32

Out of the blue, a man was brought to Jesus. How did Mark describe him in Mark 7:32? What did the people beg Jesus to do?

Healing a Man with Disabilities—Mark 7:33–35

After Jesus took the man aside from the crowd, what did He do in Mark 7:33–35? What details do you observe that describe Jesus' healing ministry?

The man couldn't hear Him, so He acted it out so the man would know He was going to be dealing with the deaf man's ears. And then a very unusual thing: He took His own saliva and touched the man's tongue. Then, He looks toward heaven and says, "Ephphatha." It's Aramaic, Jesus' native tongue. The word means, "be opened." —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Giving an Order Everybody Ignored—Mark 7:36–37

Not wanting His presence and power to cause a stir, Jesus told the crowd "not to tell anyone" (Mark 7:36). How did the crowd respond? What did they proclaim?

It's a double superlative. They were most exceedingly beyond measure astonished. They couldn't keep quiet. I love their response. Look at the sentence. "He has done all things well." —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Interpretation: Jesus Took Time for Someone in Need

Interpret [Mark 7:31–37](#) by using your Bible-study resources like a Bible dictionary to grasp the meaning of the passage as Mark’s original readers would have understood it.

In 7:31–32, the man they brought to Jesus was deaf and had a speech impediment. Look up the Greek terms *kophos*, translated “deaf,” and *mogilalos*, translated “speech impediment,” in the Greek dictionary at billmounce.com. How would you explain the physical and emotional condition of this man? How did he feel when the attention turned to him?

Everybody wants to go on and read about the healing, but I want to identify with the man who is now in the center of the circle, and he doesn’t want to be there. He feels a measure of shame. He feels embarrassment. He feels “on the spot.”
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

In 7:33, Jesus took the man aside from the crowd to be alone with him. Why did He do that? How did His gesture express His courtesy?

How great of Jesus to pull him aside rather than turn it into a healing show. Or say, “Call in the crowds! Watch this power.” Jesus never healed like that. He pulled him aside, and all alone He spent time with the man. Common courtesy.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Read [7:33–35](#) in the MSG and NET translations. How did the man experience freedom when Jesus spoke the word *ephphatha*, which means “be opened”?

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We noted the crowd's comments in the NASB translation, "He has done all things well," in Mark 7:36–37. In the Greek sentence, the word for *well* comes first. Why do you think *well* is placed at the beginning?

In the Greek language one emphasizes words by changing the order of them in the sentence. In this case, it's "Well all things He has done." In other words, His life is marked by excellence. And everything He touches, He does His very best.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Courtesy, Freedom, and Excellence

God always calls His people to show kindness, lead others to freedom, and display excellence. Compare [Psalm 145:8–9](#); [Mark 7:31–37](#); [Luke 6:31–36](#); and [Colossians 3:12](#). How does our kindness as believers demonstrate God's character to the world?

According to [Proverbs 22:29](#); [Ecclesiastes 9:10](#); and [Colossians 3:23–24](#); [4:17](#), why should believers do everything with excellence?

When you do your work with quality, you will stand out. I've been doing what I do now for many years. And every Saturday I ask the Lord to help me do my very best tomorrow morning. My very best. Why? You deserve it.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Application: Make an Eternal Impact by Modeling Jesus

Based on Jesus' example of compassion, Pastor Chuck shares three profound yet simple principles that will change your life and the lives of those around you. First, *treat everyone with courtesy*. What are some ways you can show courtesy to people around you, especially your family members?

Tell them how much you love them. When you're wrong, tell them you're wrong, and ask them to forgive you. When they do something nice, thank them. When they thank you, say, "You're welcome." And always add those magical words, "I love you." —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Second, *go everywhere promoting freedom*. Many people live in bondage without realizing Jesus offers them a path to freedom. What light of freedom can you shine in the life of someone you know who needs Jesus? It could be as simple as an invitation to church or maybe a cup of coffee and a listening ear.

Brokenhearted disappointments. Broken romances. Bad experience with people, maybe even shameful things. You may have a prison sentence in your past. You may have been through the sadness of needing time in a mental hospital. You may have needed years of therapy. It can bind you up. Be a person who sets folks free. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Third, *do everything with excellence*. Jesus put His whole heart in His work. The people exclaimed, “Everything he does is wonderful” (Mark 7:37). Join their voices in declaring your praise for the wonderful work of Jesus in your life. Ask Him how you can continue His ministry even in small ways. As you do, remember to do it well and do it for His glory!

Do your best. Don't call attention to it. Just do it. Set people free. Take time for those who need you. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



A FINAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your precious and profound truths. Help me treat everyone with courtesy. Help me promote freedom everywhere I go. And help me do everything with excellence because You deserve it. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page “*How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?*” at [insight.org](https://www.insight.org).

For the 2026–2027 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2010, 2026 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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Insight for Living

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