

Gospel Harmony Event # 68-69

Matthew 15:29-39; Mark 7:31-8:9

[Question #1] Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, Jesus skirted the Sea of Galilee through the midst of the region of Decapolis, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.

[Question #2] Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed *it*. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

[Question #3] Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them *the* lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

[Question #4] Now, in those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to *Himself* and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry; if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."

Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness? Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?"

Jesus asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish."

So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. Now those who ate were **about** four thousand men, besides women and children. And He sent away the multitude.

1. What is the region of Decapolis? Did Jesus begin to preach outside Israel? (Matthew 15:29; Mark 7:31)
2. Why did Jesus perform this miracle privately? [Mark 7:32-37]
3. Why does Matthew specify that the people glorified the "God of Israel"? [Matthew 15:29-31]
4. Explain the similarities and differences between the feeding of the 4,000 and that of the 5,000. [Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9]
5. Why would Jesus feed these people thus when He refused to feed members of the 5,000 again (John 6:22-59)?