…He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;…

Isaiah 35:4–6 (ESV)

Application

1. Jesus does all things well. His saving miracles are even better than his healing miracles.

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 7:31-37 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. What stands out about the way Jesus interacts with the deaf and mute man prior to his healing? What can we learn from it?
3. What made this man’s healing especially noteworthy to the crowds around him? In verse 37, what is the significance of the crowds saying Jesus has done all things well? How were they saying more than they realize?
4. In verse 32, Mark used an especially rare word to subtly connect this passage with Isaiah 35:4-6. What is the significance of this connection? What does it tell us about the way Jesus will ultimately address what sin has taken away?
5. What are some ways Jesus doesn’t just perfectly restore us to what we were before our sin, but now vastly improves our lot in life and eternity after our sin?
6. EXTRA CREDIT — Do you think this man and the feeding of the 4,000 are a continuation of Jesus’ ministry to the Gentile world, or do you think Jesus has returned to working among the Jews? Why does the answer to this question matter?

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. Mark 7:31 (ESV)

Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there.

Matthew 15:29 (ESV)
...and great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them,… Matthew 15:30 (ESV)

Unable To Speak

...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. Mark 7:32 (ESV)

...and looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” Mark 7:34 (ESV)

Able To Speak

...and his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Mark 7:35 (ESV)

Not Allowed To Speak

...and Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. Mark 7:36 (ESV)

...and they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” Mark 7:37 (ESV)

...and God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31 (ESV)