

## NEIGHBOR PEOPLE OF THE DECAPOLIS

Mark 7:31-37

Key Verse: 7:34

1. Read verse 31. Trace Jesus' journey from Tyre. What was his destination in this passage?
2. When had Jesus visited this place before? See 5:1-20. What had happened and why had he left? At that time, what kind of neighborhood was this region?
3. Read verse 32. What change has evidently taken place in this region? Why might such a change have taken place? (Read 5:19,20) How might the man called Legion have influenced the people of that region? Can you think of any people of good influence? Of bad influence?
4. Read verses 31-32 again. How did these people of the Decapolis exemplify neighborliness? (Review Jesus' classic parable about good neighbors in Lk 10:25-37.)
5. What do you think it means to be a good neighbor? Find some examples in the Bible (2Sa 21:15-17; 1Sa 20:41,42; 2Sa 1:26), in history and in your own life and experience.
6. Why is being a good neighbor not just an option for Christians? (See Jn 15:12-14; Lk 10:27; Lev 19:18; Ro 13:9; Jas 2:8; Jn 13:34; etc.)
7. Look at verse 32 again. Put yourself in this man's place. What do you think would be most painful about his situation? What did the good neighbors ask Jesus to do for him?
8. Read verses 33-34. What did Jesus do and say? How did Jesus' actions reveal his love for and understanding of this helpless man? What can we learn here about Jesus?
9. What was the result? Read verse 35. Think about how this man's life was changed by his encounter with Jesus.
10. Read verses 36-37. What instructions did Jesus give the neighbors? How did the people of that formerly business-oriented neighborhood react to Jesus this time? What does this event reveal about who Jesus is? (See Isa 35:5,6)