

Daily Reflections

HEALING OF A DEAF MAN

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

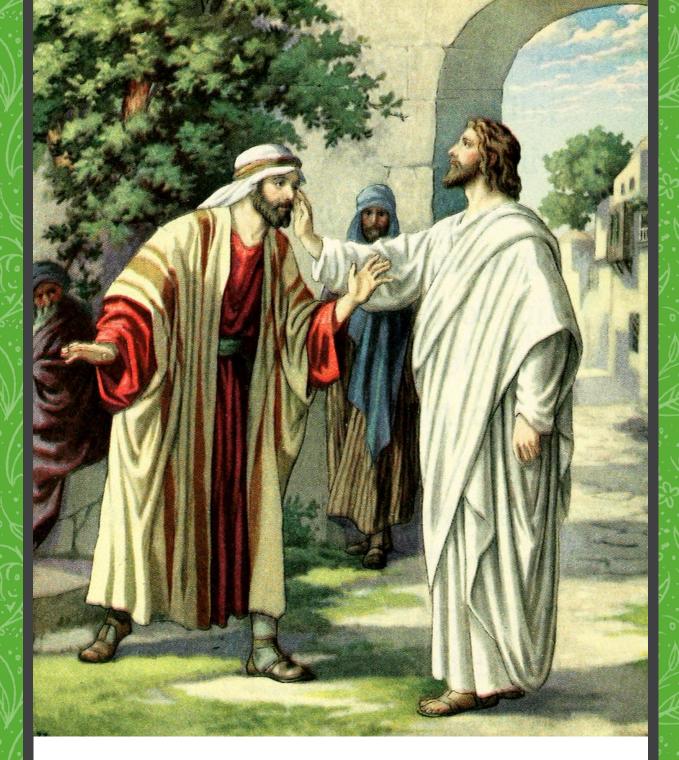
Today's Gospel

Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!") And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

MARK 7:31-37

Reflection

Following the story of the healing of the Syrophoenician woman's daughter comes the cure of a deaf man. Jesus and the disciples are still in Gentile territory, witnessing God's expansive care for all people. The actions of Jesus are typical of healers, e.g., spitting is a common action to ward off evil. Looking up to heaven, the deaf man seems to draw the Holy One into the earthbound reality. Jesus commands <code>Ephphatha!</code> -- that the ears and tongue "be opened." Literally, the word means "be released." The Lord's intent is to free people from whatever imprisons them. In that freedom they are able to live more fully. Those who witnessed the healing of the deaf man recognized the activity of the Lord among them: "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."



"16 Jesus heals the Deaf and Dumb Man - Be Opened (color)" by fz1844 is marked with Public Domain Mark 1.0. To view the terms, visit https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/?ref=openverse.

For Pondering

- When have you recently witnessed the activity of the Lord?
- What in you has been "opened" or "released?" Your hearing, your speech, your eyes, your heart?
- Pause for a few minutes to recognize what the Lord has done for you.
 Respond with recognition.

For Prayer

Dear God,
open what is closed in me and release that which is bound.
In that freedom may I serve you and your creation
with an open spirit.
Amen.

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing List





please **email us**. The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175