



# 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**

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 *Ephphatha!* -- 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."

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## 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.



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## 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.*

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