



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 35,4-7^a; Psalm 145; James 2,1-5; Mark 7, 31-37

Jesus cures a deaf man with a speech impediment

Again, 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 sighed deeply, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, this 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."

Reflection

People took a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment to Jesus to be cured. What problems did he have? (He could not hear or speak well.) **How did Jesus cure him?** (He took him away from the crowd, put His fingers into his ears, and touched his tongue with His saliva. Then, He looked up to heaven and said, "Ephphatha!")

What does Ephphatha mean? (Be opened.) **We hear people speak with our ears. How do we hear God speak?** (With our heart.) **Many people do not hear Jesus speak because their heart is closed. To heal the man, Jesus first took him away from the crowd. To listen to Jesus, we need silence from conversations, music, tv, videos, etc. Do we make time each day, in silence, to listen to Jesus? Share. Jesus then**

looked up to heaven and sighed deeply. What does this mean? (Like in other gospels, a sigh or breath from Jesus represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity opens his ears and tongue to hear and speak well.) **Jesus wants to open our hearts and send the Holy Spirit so we may listen well and love as He loves with good words and actions. We should try to give Jesus time in silence and ask Him to open our heart to receive the Holy Spirit and be His light in the world.**

Activities

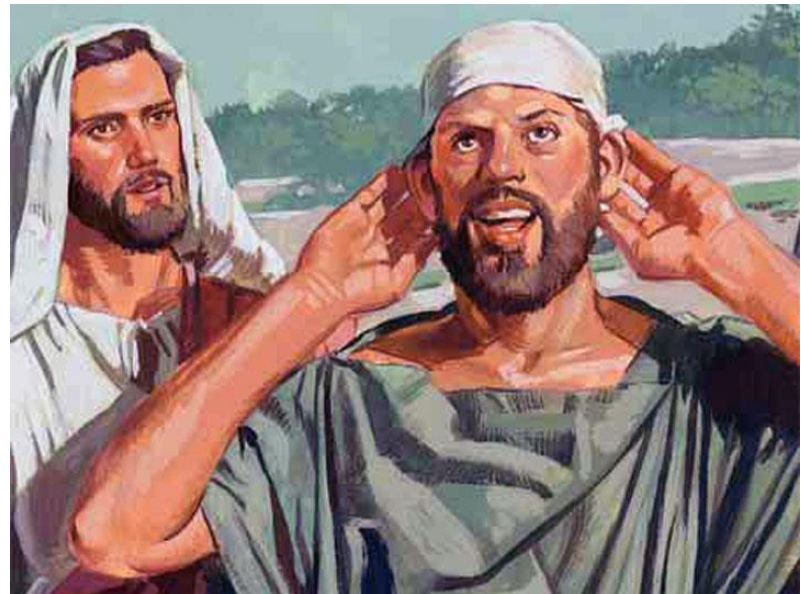
On the following page, complete the Word Search with words from the Gospel. On the last page, draw or color the heart open to God.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for your presence in my life. Please open my heart and send your Holy Spirit so I may love as you love. Help me to be your light in this world. Amen.

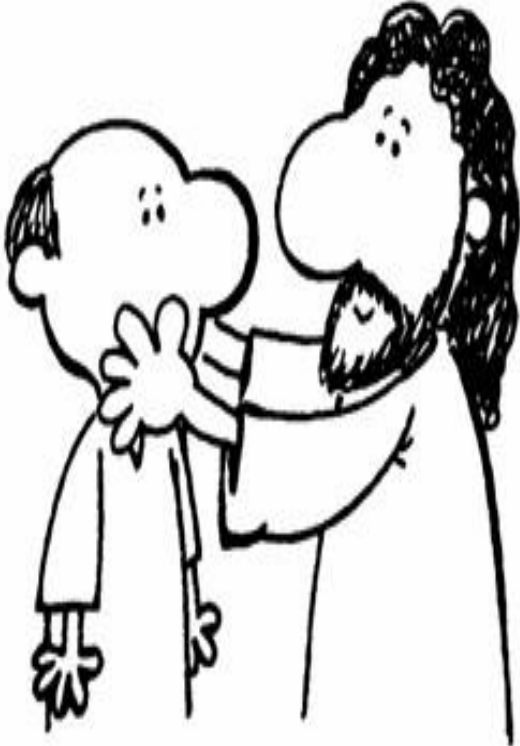
Song: Help Me Listen to You Lord, m2e2linde1256 (Ctrl click) <https://youtu.be/dKqiwc-0TvM>

PPT: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AQH8-A1ZF66QF7hGgRblcTBhFqlv-NSh/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true>





T	D	A	E	F	E	S	S	A	E	TYRE	SIDON	SEA	GALILEE
S	N	L	A	G	P	R	G	T	G	DEAF	IMPEDIMENT	EARS	CROWD
I	O	E	D	O	K	A	N	E	A	HAND	DECAPOLIS	DUMB	SPOKE
L	D	R	M	U	L	E	H	D	L				
O	I	Y	L	I	M	O	C	I	I				
P	S	T	L	A	D	B	E	S	L				
A	A	E	G	N	A	E	E	A	E				
C	E	I	A	E	D	E	P	O	L				
E	L	H	E	K	O	P	S	M	E				
D	W	O	R	C	M	B	U	D	I				



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Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

**A HEART OPEN TO GOD, LISTENS,
FORGIVES, HELPS, AND OBEYS GOD.**



Jesus, Open
my heart.



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45 SW 71st Avenue – Miami, FL 33144 – Tel: (305) 412-1700/Fax: (305) 412-1777
E-mail: info@fcpeace.com/Webpage: www.fcpeace.org