



Daily Reflections

September 9, 2018

Scripture

Mark 7: 31-37

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 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."

Our Scripture Reflection

The problem with the poor man's inability to hear, and therefore, speak clearly was much more profound than his inability to experience sounds. The real tragedy was his inability to hear the Words of Jesus. Jesus would not allow the man to stay in this condition. He opens the man's ears which results in the man's ability to witness to Jesus. Now he has the "tools" necessary to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Are your ears open to Jesus? Do you use your speech to witness to your faith in Him?

Food for your Journey

Apropos the story of the healing of the deaf man in this Sunday's Mark text: In the movie, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, starring Penélope Cruz and Nicholas Cage, a man comes to the village doctor complaining that he cannot hear.

When the doctor finds a dried pea stuck in his ear — it has been there for years — he removes the pea, and the man is cured.

Later, the man returns to the doctor. He has been overwhelmed with the sounds of life, the bickering, and noise and hassle. He can hardly stand it.

Please, would the doctor put the pea back in his ear?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, There is so much noise in our world, so many sounds that run contrary to the sweetness of Your Holy Words. Open my ears in faith so that I may always seek out and listen to Your voice, the voice of the Good Shepherd. May I then use my words to witness to Your Words. Amen