

## **"BE OPEN" to Hear & Speak Jesus' Words!**

In Mark's gospel we hear about a man who is deaf and unable to speak clearly. The people bring this man to Jesus to be healed. Obviously the man knows little about Jesus, but these people do and notice someone who is in need of the healing Jesus can offer him.



In this situation, Jesus takes the man off by himself, away from the crowd. He puts his finger into the man's ears and touches his tongue with his spit. He looks up to heaven and says "be opened!" The man can now hear and speak clearly. He orders the crowd to be quiet about it, but they can't do that; they had to proclaim it.

Those who followed Jesus were able to hear the words he spoke and witness his healing miracles. They saw a man who could not hear or speak. In faith and hope they brought him to Jesus, who takes the man off alone to be present to him and to cure him.

In what ways can we apply this miracle and personal encounter to our lives in today's world?

Like the people who brought this man to Jesus, we bring the needs of people we love and care about to Jesus through our faith and prayers, especially when we come to Mass, listen to His word and encounter Him in the Eucharist.

We may not be physically deaf like this man, but there are times when we may be spiritually deaf to the messages Jesus is trying to speak to us. That's why it's good to go off by ourselves and listen quietly, at least for a few minutes, daily if possible, to ponder what Jesus might be trying to tell us about what we are hearing and speaking.

Do we really hear His words of encouragement, wisdom, love, forgiveness, insight and appreciation that come to us through others? Or are we deaf to the clarity of his touch and desire to communicate with us?

Do we speak his loving, caring, comforting and supporting words to our spouses, children, family members, co-workers and friends? Or are we speaking our own messages of worldly language and ignore the messages of our personal encounters with Jesus?

Another school year is beginning. Perhaps it might be a good practice to apply this gospel story to your personal and family life. As you go off by yourself to attend Sunday Mass and receive the Eucharist, it might be a good opportunity to reflect on this Gospel passage.

Recall times during the week when you "heard" the words or message Jesus spoke to you through someone.

Reflect on when, where or how you "spoke" or "heard" words that Jesus would be pleased to hear.