

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

AGAPE FROM AFAR

Adjusting to life amidst Coronavirus

A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
JILL

As a way to remain connected during this time apart, I will be putting together a weekly newsletter with a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scripture passage. I hope that by taking a few moments to reflect on the Word of God and pray, we can feel grounded and connected to God and to one another during this uncertain time. *-Pastor Jill*



The passage for this Sunday is from Mark 7:31-37. In this passage a group of people bring a man to Jesus who cannot hear or speak. Jesus heals the man by touching his ears and his tongue and saying "Be opened." Ironically, Jesus tells the man who is newly able to speak to be quiet and not share this with anyone. But the news spreads anyway as the crowd is amazed at the miracle they have just witnessed.

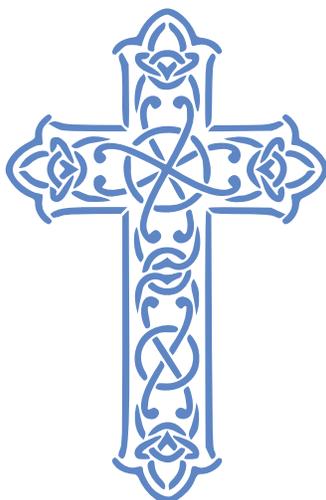
Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



Read the passage:

Mark 7:31-37

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”





Reflect:

1. How does the man come to Jesus? What does this tell us about the people who brought him? And what might that mean for us?
2. In verse 34, Jesus looks to heaven and sighs. Why do you think Mark included this detail?
3. Jesus healed the man by saying, “Be Open.” In what area of your life are you being called to “be open”?
4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

Pray:

Open us up, O God, to the people and places in need of your healing. May we be as confident as this man's friends, to bring before you everything and anyone in need of your healing presence. Amen.