



Miracle 3: Jesus heals a deaf and mute man

Reference/read: Mark 7: 31-37

Key word/phrase: A deep sign, followed by “Ephphatha!”

Surprise: Jesus took the man aside, away from the crowd, ensuring it wasn’t a ‘freak show’.

Key teaching verse: v34 *‘He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”).’*

Teaching message: Once again Jesus takes this person away from the crowd before healing him, treating him with dignity and respect, but the manner of the healing is different to many, it is more intimate. He touched the man’s ears and spat and touched the man’s tongue. Why? I believe Jesus used sensory methods of communication to show the man that he was healing him, to help him understand what was happening. I may be stretching things a little here, but I also wonder if Jesus took the inability to hear and speak from the man into his own body, struggled with it, and then looking to heaven and sighing he spoke. And the first word the man ever heard was that word spoken by Jesus himself... *“Ephphatha!” (“Be opened!”)*

Discussion questions: (1) What would it have meant to this man to be treated with such dignity and respect? (2) What can we learn from how Jesus used sensory ways to communicate as well as his willingness to understand the man’s disability personally? (3) How can we use sensory methods of communication more to engage with people with disabilities that we know and to understand them better?

See separate blog post: <https://theadditionalneedsblogfather.com/2017/03/30/weak-made-strong/>