

23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Mark 7:31-37

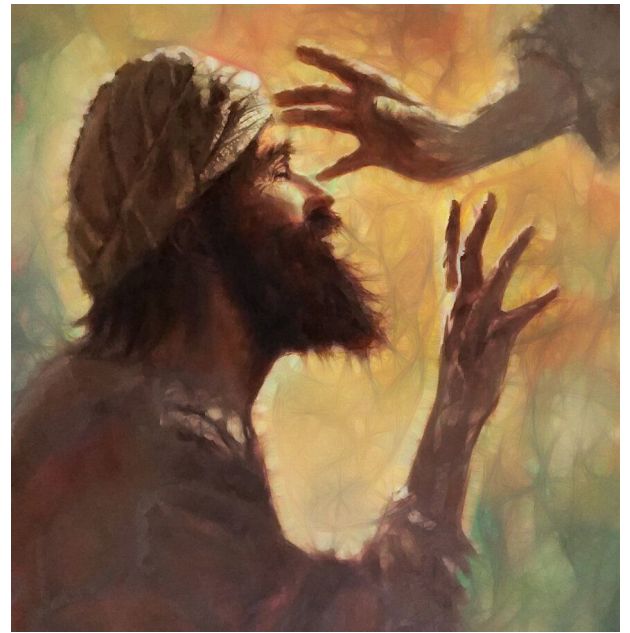
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord †

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

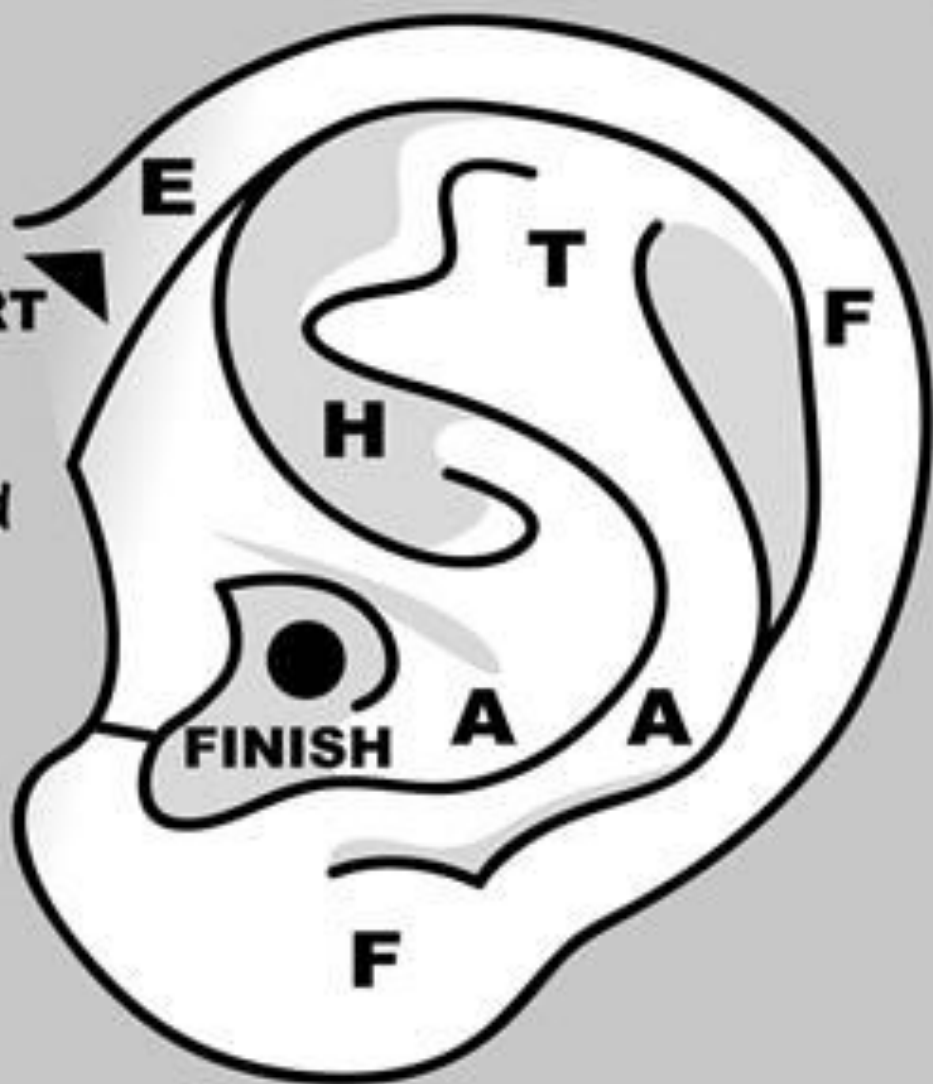


Praise the Lord, my soul!



Follow the path into the ear to find out what Jesus said to the deaf man. Write down each letter in sequence as you pass them.

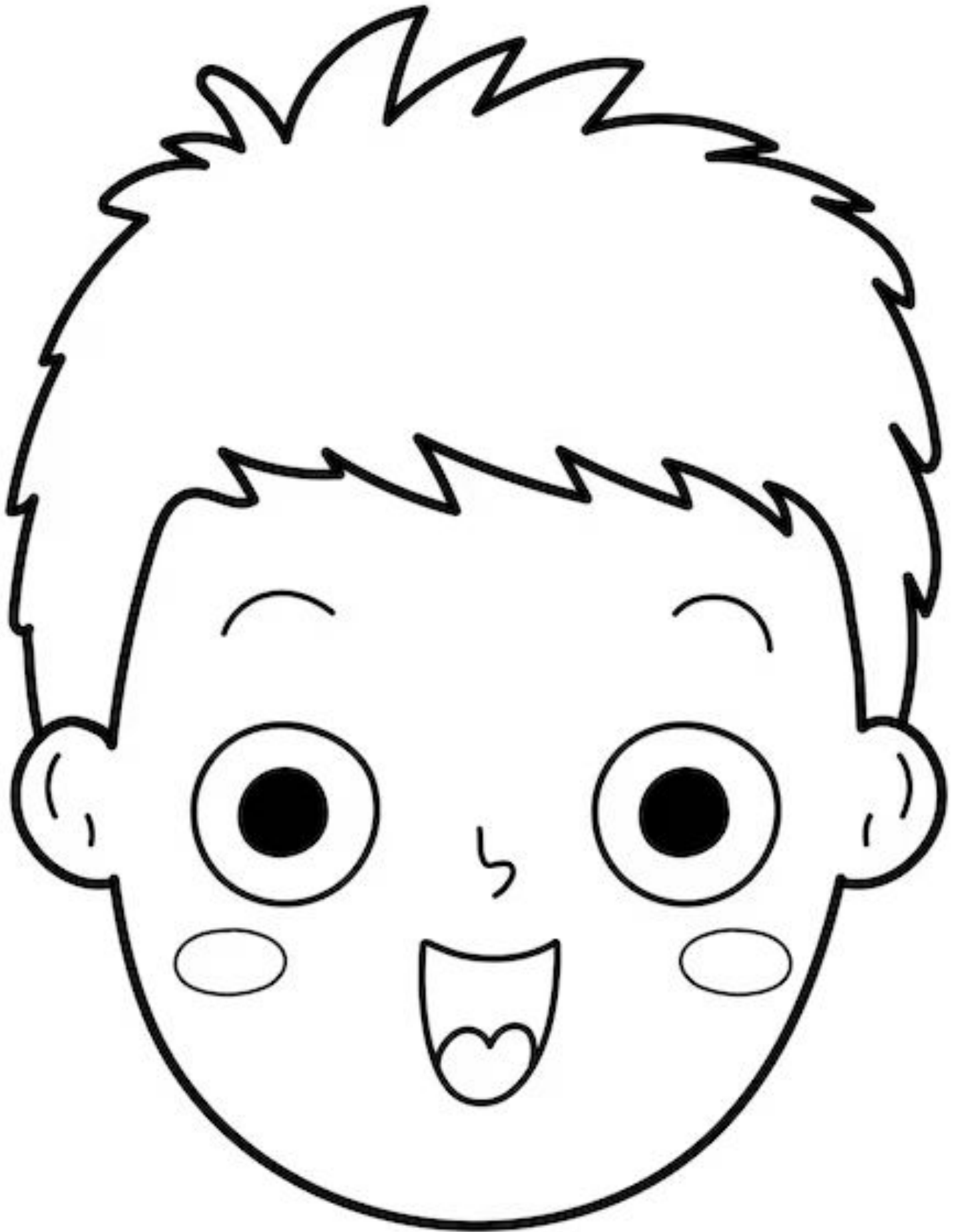
START



‘

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Ερηφάθα



Teacher Notes 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Go through the details of the story (who, what, where, why) so that the children get the flavour of it.

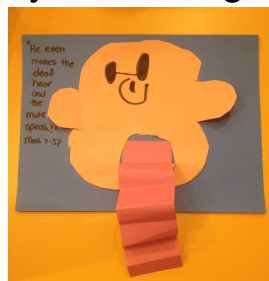
How did this story fit in with the first reading? Why do you think these two readings were assigned to be read together? What does the Gospel reveal about Jesus?

On earth, God reveals himself through the goodness and kindness of other people. Who were God's helpers in this miracle?

Ask the children for examples in their lives where God has helped them or their families through other people. Ask them how they can be God's 'agents' for others' happiness.

Note with the children that Jesus did not just say 'Be cured of your deafness'. He took the man aside and touched his ears and tongue – he acted like a sort of hometown doctor. Jesus showed that he considered the man important, respected his privacy and spent some personal time with him. What example does Jesus give us? Think of some times in your life when God acted through someone else to make you happy or feel special. (Share some of these examples.) Remind the children that God uses very small things to give happiness to others: a smile, a kind word or greeting, a helping hand, being willing to listen to others.

The gospel tells us that everyone was filled with wonder and amazement. Are we ever amazed at the wonderful signs God gives us of his love for us? Have the children say something that is amazing to them as a sign of God's love.



ACTIVITY: