

Lectio Divina

- > **Read and re-read**, out loud and slowly the Gospel
 - > **Meditate** on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life
 - > **Pray** - Thanksgiving - Repentance - Petition
 - > **Action** - Attitude (Call to change / to act / to do)
-

September 9th 2018 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B - Mark 7:31-37

In this week's gospel we read of the man who could neither hear nor speak and his friends brought him to Jesus. This man reminds us of those who cannot communicate. They cannot hear God's word of truth and consolation. He cannot initiate conversation - with God or other human beings. Jesus takes the man 'aside in private'. This is an indication that healing often requires intimacy. In public we can run the risk of using people to bolster our ego or for our personal ambition. Jesus looked up to heaven because he knows the source of his healing powers is there. He kept his word 'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Can you remember a time when your ears were opened and you heard in a new way that you are loved - by God and other people?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the humility shown by Jesus when he ordered those he healed to tell no one about it.

Forgive us for the times we were put-downers, patronising or snobbish when an open heart and attitude was needed.

Help us to bring the encouraging message and hope of Jesus in today's gospel to all those who need their ears to hear and their voice to speak.

