

A deaf man is healed and speaks

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

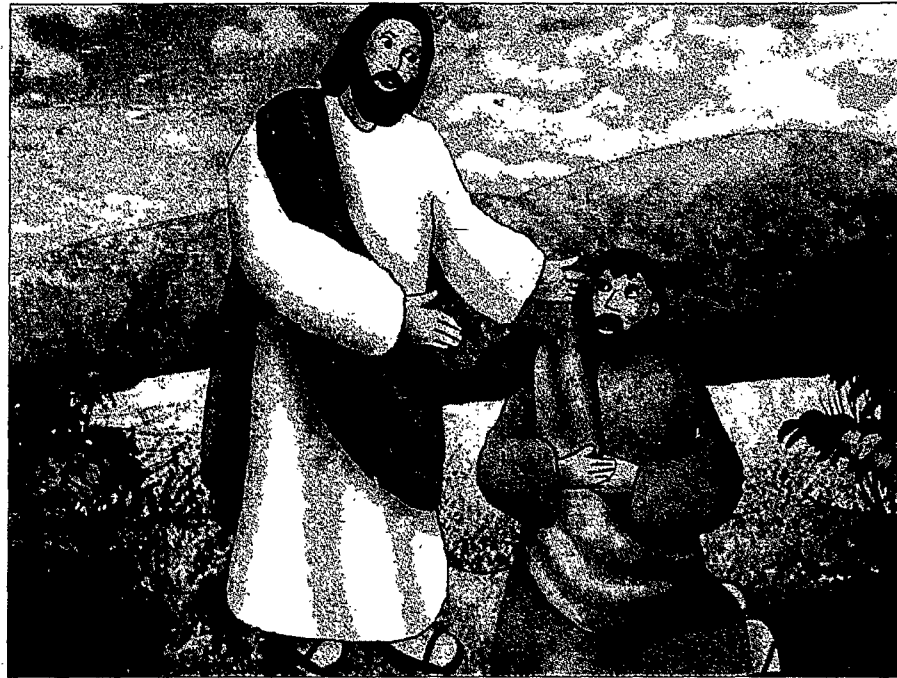
When Jesus was in Jerusalem, a crowd of people gathered around to hear him teach. Scribes and Pharisees who were also there asked Jesus why some of the things his disciples did were against the religious laws. Jesus gave them a harsh answer.

"You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition. You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things." Jesus walked to a high spot of ground so that everyone present could see and hear him. Then he said, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from the outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

Jesus said nothing more after that, but he walked away through the crowd, followed by his disciples. He stopped when he came to the district of Tyre, where a woman asked him to rid her daughter of an evil spirit. Because of her faith, Jesus healed the woman's daughter. He then left Tyre and traveled through Sidon until he reached the Sea of Galilee.

Another crowd of people had gathered to hear Jesus and to see him perform miracles. Jesus wanted only to be alone with his disciples, but he knew the people who came to him had so many needs. His compassion compelled him to help them.

One person who came to Jesus was a deaf man with a severe speech impediment. The man's friends asked if Jesus would just lay his hands on him. Their faith told them that would be enough to heal their friend. Jesus brought the man to a place they would not be seen or heard by the crowd of people.



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he touched the man's tongue and spit on the ground. Jesus looked up into heaven and said to the man, "Be opened!" Immediately the man could hear and he could speak as well as any of his friends.

When Jesus returned with the healed man who was rejoicing because Jesus had healed him, Jesus told them not to tell anyone what had

happened. But the man and his friends were just too excited and grateful. They told everyone.

"He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 7

Q&A

1. Why did so many people follow Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say to the deaf man's friends?

Puzzle

Fill in the blanks to answer the questions. The first letter of each correct answer combine to form the word "Christian." Answers on page 21.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1. Jesus died on one. | C | _____ |
| 2. Where God lives. | H | _____ |
| 3. The last book of the Bible. | R | _____ |
| 4. A major prophet of Judah. | I | _____ |
| 5. Number of sacraments. | S | _____ |
| 6. The two sections of the Bible. | T | _____ |
| 7. Jacob's new name. | I | _____ |
| 8. Noah built one. | A | _____ |
| 9. Jesus lived in this city. | N | _____ |

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Bible Accent

Jesus performed many miracles while he lived on Earth. He healed sick and injured men, women and children; he walked on water without sinking; and he freed people from evil spirits. He started his ministry by changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana at the request of his mother.

But there are also stories of miraculous events in the Old Testament. Moses heard the voice of one of God's messengers speak to him from a burning bush. God sent manna from heaven to feed the hungry Israelites. The walls around the city of Jericho crumbled when Joshua and his men blew their trumpets. Elijah called down fire from heaven.

Critics of Jesus and the prophets always asked for signs of God's power, and God gave them many examples. We can read about them in almost every book of the Bible.

St. Maximus

Maximus was born in the late sixth century in Constantinople. He became the principal secretary of the Emperor Heraclius, then left to become a monk.

He joined the other monks in Chrysopolis. A strong disagreement developed between some of the clergy and the emperor. Some religious leaders, including Pope Martin I, were abused and even killed for their opposition to the emperor's beliefs.

Even Maximus was challenged. After spending time in Rome, he was brought back to Constantinople to stand trial. Maximus spoke eloquently in his own defense and won sympathy from some of his accusers. However, he would not change his mind. He was tortured and thrown back into prison, where he died a few weeks later, at the age of 82. We remember him on Aug. 13.

Bible Trivia

How many books or letters of the New Testament are named "John?" Send answer to Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by Sept. 4. A winner, selected at random from all correct entries submitted, will receive a prize. There were no correct responses received to the last trivia question. What was the title of the leader of Egypt when the Israelites escaped?

Fea

21st Sunday
(Aug. 24):
(Joshua 24:1-5:21-32.

Many of the followers of Jesus followed His message. His message demands too great a commitment. The Twelve wanted to leave and were answered, "Who do you want to go with? You have no life. We have life. We have a conviction that we are convinced of a holy one."

Peter hit the nail on the head: "You have no life." Many of the disciples were not ready to follow. Why hundreds of people were not following at the time.

As we get closer to the end of our lives, we see changes in our lives. Friends die. Even an entire generation. In a dying man, Jesus reminds us of something more, something greater worth trusting in his words of life.

His words are the smallest of things, but they have a great impact. The greatest here can be guilty of sin. God. It is a law and what God does. Even the smallest kingdom of God. Even the poorest of people have a limited power. Jesus tells us

How we feel about our lives. We determine the witness to Christ. We are disgusted by their self-esteem. Christ delivered us from a low self-esteem of life about us. He has done so

