



(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 7:31-37)

## “Speaking Plainly”

Our journey of faith is a never-ending one... one of constantly coming to know The Father through Jesus. It parallels the journey of the first disciples, revealed throughout the Scriptures in very blunt terms. Theirs was a rocky journey – in fact, it was a series of journeys, all of which had paths that twisted and turned; there were hills and valleys, joys and sorrows. Sometimes, there were magnificent victories; at other times, there were terrible failures and tragic betrayals. But all of these experiences were interwoven into the story of their journey of faith. Their story is our story. It is the story of the community that we call “Church.”

The cure of the deaf-mute in today's Gospel passage is apropos, and points to a deeper reality - it points to the mystery of Jesus as a person - and the gradual way in which people came to faith, and how the impact of their encounters with him enabled them to share this faith with others. The healing of the deaf-mute is a lesson that need to remember when the weather worsens and when the winds whip up - which will happen - because they cover their ears and their mouths to the truth.

The message of Jesus is not an easy one to hear - especially during the times in which we live. One of the most difficult facets of Christianity is that it continually invites us to re-imagine how the whole process of "church" works. There can be no compromise when it comes to the message of Christ. If we only buy into it half-heartedly, we will

ultimately lose it. If we fail to open our ears and if we fail to speak plainly, we will betray the entire message.



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