

## Reflection Friday Week 5 – 2024

It is interesting to hear that Jesus adopted a whole new ritual to cure the deaf man when on another occasion he just said *Ephphatha!* Maybe the man was from a different culture and Jesus wanted to use a ritual familiar to him. After all, the man lived in the Decapolis region that housed peoples from many different cultures. Being unable to hear it would have made it very difficult for him to speak.

Often we can be unaware of the feelings and the turmoil in other people's lives. We need Jesus to help us be more sensitive to other people's challenges and difficulties. This can be very difficult if the cultures of both are very different.

In our encounter with others, hearing and listening are not necessarily the same. Listening has the ability to be aware of what is not said. It is accompanied by empathy and compassion which provide us with a sensitivity that lies beyond understanding and knowledge. Jesus had that sensitivity about the people he met.

Made in the image of God we too possess the same qualities. Let us use them!

- ***An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100 %.***  
*The elderly gentleman went back a month later to the doctor and the doctor said: "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."*  
*The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to their conversations.*  
***I've changed my will three times!"***