

GOSPEL PEARLS

An irrepressible need

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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. (Mark 7, 31-37)

Despite Jesus' prohibition against recounting the miracles He works, those who receive them, or who have witnessed them, can't resist spreading the news. This is precisely the essence of being a Christian: the irrepressible need to announce to others that Jesus has saved us by giving meaning to our life. Ask yourself honestly if you have this momentum. If the answer is no, perhaps it is time to improve your prayer life. Let's reflect on this.