



First Reading: (*Isa 35:4-7a*) Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Ps 145:7-10

R. / My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading: (*Jas 2:1-5*) My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not

made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?

Gospel: (*Mk 7:31-37*) Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought him to lay his hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And he charged them to tell no one; but the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

REFLECTION

Some friends brought a deaf man to Jesus, He felt compassion for the man and heals him; his ears were opened, his tongue loosened. He was tender hearted toward all who were in need. We should listen to the pleas of people for help. Listening is part of "doing everything well." **Tenderly reacting to the feelings of others is always to be the way of the believer.** The whole story shows us most vividly that Jesus did not consider the man merely a case; he considered him as an individual who had a special need, and with tender consideration Jesus dealt with him. When it was completed the people declared that he had done all things well. That is none other than the verdict of God upon his own creation in the very beginning (Gen 1:31). When Jesus came, bringing healing to men's bodies and salvation to their souls, he had begun the work of creation all over again. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10).