

Homily

23 Sunday (B)

8/9 Sep 2012

Readings: Is 35:4-7

Psalm 145

James 2:1-5

Mk 7:31-37

I have never seen God. I've never seen an angel. I've never had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of the saints.

I've never heard any voices, no great pronouncements from Heaven.

And when I try to pray not an awful lot seems to happen.

Despite all that, I know - with a greater certainty than I know anything else - that God exists. And I don't just know that He exists, I know that He is Love itself, that He is pouring Himself out for us, and that all he wants is for us to love Him.

I cannot see Him with my eyes. I cannot hear Him with my ears. But I can see Him and hear Him with my heart. By entering into my own heart I can see God and hear Him.

But how can this be and what do I mean?

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee....they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hands 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.

The only person who can open the ears and eyes of our hearts is Jesus. Only Jesus can open us up to God. This is what happens in Baptism and Confirmation. This is what happens when we pray. This is what we celebrate in the Eucharist.

Jesus takes each one of us aside. He lays his hands upon us. He touches our tongue with his spittle. He looks up to heaven and says, '*Ephphatha. Be opened*' .

Let Jesus open the eyes and ears of your heart a little more today. May you truly see God and hear His voice in the depths of your heart.

Fr Michael