



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

with *By + Guy Sansaricq*

(September 9th, 2018)

Is. 35, 4-7; Ps. 146; Jas. 2, 1-5; Mk. 7, 31-37

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Jesus is shown today healing a man who is deaf and dumb. His burning concern for the sick and the poor is highlighted. *It appears that He cannot resist performing a good deed!*

*Yet this miracle takes place at a time when Jesus had turned his back on Israel, his native land. His own people had rejected his teaching about the **BREAD OF LIFE**. So he crossed the lake in the direction of pagan territories. He is reaching out to the world.*

*Yet, as soon as he showed up on pagan land they asked him to heal a dumb man. Jesus pulled him to the side, healed him out of mercy and pleaded with him to keep it a secret. Jesus does not seek publicity. Yet this miracle is a **SIGN** revealing the purpose of his mission.*

The deaf and dumb man represents mankind that too frequently closes its ears to the message of truth and as a result finds no direction and purpose in life. Too many of us roam on the roads of life like dumb people making sense of nothing. Jesus calls each one of us to listen to his words of liberation. He calls all of us to be people who can **HEAR** and **SPEAK**.

Let us allow Jesus to **TOUCH** us with the water of Baptism and the bread of communion. Let's allow Him to put his saliva on our tongues! "**OPEN UP**" He tells us! *Stop being close-minded and stubborn in your old ideas and habits! Open up! Listen, Believe and Find **NEW LIFE!***

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME