

FEBRUARY 12, 2021
Friday of the 5th Week in OT
Mark 7: 31-37

“HELPFUL SENSES.”

Most of us are lucky to have all our senses intact and usable. There are a lot of people who are deaf, blind, or no hands or have some deformities. But we know physical defects are nothing compare to spiritual shortcomings. Even if we have all the senses, still others are blind to the goodness of others, insensitive, heartless, inconsiderate, harsh in words and judgemental. We don't care or extend our hands for others. In our gospel for today, the Lord is teaching us the importance of our senses and using it to its proper intention. We heard in the gospel: “He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.”¹ What is the significance of putting Jesus' fingers into the ears and touches man's tongue? First, Jesus used “his own spittle to physically identify with this man's infirmity and to awaken faith in him. With a word of command, the poor man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. The second reason is from Gregory the Great, a church father from the 6th century, he said: ‘The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.’”²

My brothers and sisters, the Lord is telling us: How am I using my senses, for my good and others or to harm and destroy myself and those people around me? Do I speak respectfully, looking not of the faults of others but their goodness, or do good and not hurting others by words and action? My brothers and sisters, we should not take our senses for granted because they are wonderful gifts from God. Always use all our gifts according to God's plan and intention. Listen attentively to others as we speak well of

¹ Mark 7: 33 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² www.dailyscripture.net

others. The more we listen, the more we understand others. And if we listen to God's Word, we are to speak the Word of the Lord. It is in listening to Jesus that He can communicate through us. Let us therefore ask the Lord to give us a listening heart to understand those people around us, an open mind to see the goodness of others, embrace and touch others through our love and concern.