

SKIT: Hearing

by Ron Unger

Text: Mark 7:31-37

- D: (A deaf and dumb man, sitting alone in the center of the stage/chancel)
- 1: (passing by) Pardon me, sir, can you tell me what time it is?
- D: (no answer)
- 1: I say, do you have a watch? How late is it? (walks away frustrated)
- 2: Say, which way is it to the airport? I'm in a terrible rush.
- D: (no response)
- 3: (passing by selling fruit) Come and get your red, luscious apples. Who wants a delicious apple? (stooping over deaf man) Hey fellow, you want to buy an apple?
- D: (takes an apple and begins to eat it)
- 3: That'll be ten cents. (waits) I said, they're a dime apiece. What's wrong with you fellow? Can't you hear?
- 1: (walking back towards 3) You know, I think that's his problem; he can't hear you.
- 3: (to D) Is that right, mister? You can't hear us? Speak up!
- 2: Don't be silly, He can't hear you!
- 3: Well, he could have said as much.
- 1: Maybe he can't talk, either.
- 3: Well, he can sure put away the apples!
- 2: Maybe he's faking.
- 1: Think so?
- 2: You never can tell. Knew a guy in Pittsburgh once. Used to sit and beg on a corner. Pretended he was deaf and dumb. But he could hear a copy walking up the sidewalk two blocks off.
- (All begin to gather around D.)
- 1: Well, let's see. (loudly, behind D) Well, hello, Officer, top of the morning to you! (all look quickly to D for a reaction; there is none)
- 2: (makes a megaphone) All right, Rocky, this is it. We know what you're up to. Come out with your hands up! (all look to D for reaction; there is none)
- 1: Nothing. Stone deaf.
- 3: Oh, yeah? We'll see about that. (leans over behind D with a whistle and blows it) Yeah! Touchdown! Six points for our team!
- 1, 2, & 3: Yeah!
- D: (no response)
- 3: Hey, I think he's really deaf.
- 2: Yeah. He can't talk, either.
- Narrator: "Then Jesus returned from the regions of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, through the region of 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 hands upon him."
- Jesus: (enters whistling "When the Saints Go Marching In")
- 3: (to Jesus) Hey buddy. Do you know anything about deaf people? This guy can't talk or hear.
- Jesus: Let me take a look.

2: Help him if you can, mister.

1: (to Jesus) You a doctor or something?

Jesus: “Or something.”

1: See what you can do, huh?

Jesus: Leave us alone for a moment, please. (1, 2, & 3 back off as a group.)

Narrator: “And taking him aside from the multitude privately, he put his fingers into his ears...”

Jesus: Now this may tickle just a big. (puts his fingers in D’s ears)

Narrator: “And he spat and touched his tongue...”

Jesus: Say “ah.” (touches D’s tongue)

3: (watching) Yuck! How crude!

2: Are you sure he’s a doctor?

Narrator: “And looking up to the heavens, he sighed (Jesus sighs audibly) and said to him...”

Jesus: Ephphatha!

2: It’s Hebrew, dummy.

Jesus: Ephphatha.

D: Ephpha-what? What does that mean?

Jesus: Be opened!

D: Oh.

(1, 2, & 3 turn to D in amazement)

3: He can talk. I told you he was faking! (to D) Hey mister, you owe me a dime!

1: Wait a minute. Not so fast.

3: (blows his whistle again) See, lookey there! (points to D’s response)

Narrator: “And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly...”

D: (to 3) Hey, you with the whistle, how about another apple?

Narrator: “And Jesus charged them to tell no one.”

Jesus: (gathers group in huddle and whispers)

3: (shouting) Oh, goody! I love secrets.

All: Shh!

Narrator: (while others whisper) “But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.”

2: (to audience) Do you know what he did?

Jesus: Shh.

D: (to audience) Wow! How about that! He put his fingers in my ears—boy, did that ever tickle. Then he spit and told me to stick out my tongue. I’ve been to a lot of doctors in my day, but I never had one try that. (to Jesus) I don’t know what you’ve got, mister, but you ought to have it patented.

3: Yeah, you'd make a million.

1: Wait a minute. This ain't no ordinary guy.

2 & 3: No?

2: (to Jesus) Hey, don't I recognize you from somewhere?

Jesus: Ever been through Tyre, Sidon, or in the area of the Decapolis?

2: No. I've never been east of Akron, Ohio.

1: I've been to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

3: That's it! You're Jesus of Nazareth, aren't you?

1: It's Jesus!

Narrator: "And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, 'He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'"

D: Well, that takes the cake. I can hear and talk.

(Cast goes through the audience placing their hands on people's ears and saying, "Ephphatha.")

The end.

Originally published in *Resources for Youth Ministry* 75:3.

Updated for thESource August 2012.

thESource is published on the Web by LCMS District & Congregational Services—Youth Ministry. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930; www.youthesource.com. Editor: Sherrah Holobaugh Behrens. VOL. 9 NO. 8. August 2012.