

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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September 5, 2021 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 7:31-37

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## Tell No One

*Jesus returns to Galilee to preach. People with all sorts of ailments were brought to him. When a deaf man with a speech impediment is brought, Jesus takes him away from the crowd to heal him. As he has done before, Jesus tells the crowd not to tell anyone.*

Some people speculate that Jesus told people not to tell anyone about his miracles because he knew the best way to spread news is to tell folks it's a secret. They believe Jesus worked miracles to prove he was divine. Personally, I think Jesus meant what he said. He didn't want people just to follow him because he was a miracle-worker. He wanted them to focus on his message.

I believe the real reason Jesus healed a person was because of his compassion. He not only talked about love and forgiveness, he lived it. Jesus proclaimed his message of truth and love in everything he did, even to his death. Jesus wasn't out to prove anything. It was his great love touched by another person's faith that worked miracles.

There is a great lesson in this for all of us. We need to make sure our actions back up our words. This is especially true when dealing with children. Telling youngsters God is important without witnessing how God fits into our own lives can leave children questioning our words.

Children need to hear us talk about our faith, but they also need to see us praying, reading Scripture

and giving our time in service. People believed Jesus because he was so authentic. His actions witnessed the truth of his message. Perhaps if we do the same, our love will touch the faith of another person, and we may witness some small miracles of our own.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Have each family member talk about what he or she thinks it means to be a Christian. What can each person do differently in his or her life to be more like Christ?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is the most difficult part about being a Christian? Why do you think it is difficult? How can you make it easier? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?