

# ‘Nnn-ma, Djuh, Djuh!’

Jesus’ travels had taken him out of Jewish territory into the northern communities of the gentiles, the pagans. Even there, the stories of his healing power were known. As he entered one of the ten villages on the shores of the Lake of Galilee, a group of men were hurrying toward him. In front was a man about Jesus’ age. He started to run, holding his arms up in prayerful supplication.

“Nnn-ma, Djuh, Djuh,” the man strained to speak, bringing his hopeful face so close that Jesus could smell his breath.

His friends filled in around them, explaining, “He is deaf and cannot speak clearly. He begs you to heal him.” The deaf man’s eyes were fervent with hope.

Nearly all of Jesus’ miracles had been performed among his own Jewish community. To heal this man, who was not a Jew, would emphasize that Jesus’ message and preaching were for all people, not just the Jews. Yet, the revelation that he was the Messiah was for his disciples only, and even then he was revealing it by very slow degrees.

The crowd now forming wanted to see the magician do his trick right there in front of them. Jesus, needed to have intimacy with his Father. So he decided to take the man aside and heal him privately. He led the jabbering deaf man away from the crowd. When alone, Jesus cradled the man’s head in his hands and pushed his index fingers into the man’s ears—as if he was opening a passageway into them.

“Nnn-ma, Djuh, Djuh,” the man stammered again, his eyes wild with excitement. His whole body began to tremble.

Jesus lifted his eyes heavenward and gave up a loud groan. “Be opened,” he commanded in a stern voice, still holding the man’s head in his hands. Like water bursting through a broken dam, sound flooded the man’s ears as he heard Jesus cry out, “Ephphatha!”

Jesus spat and touched the man’s tongue, releasing the



impediment.

The words he had been trying to say burst free on his tongue with crystal clarity. ‘Heal me, Jesus,’ he said. Jesus smiled at him. “You are healed. But I ask you not to tell anyone about this.”

When they returned to the waiting crowd, the man could not contain his joy. He shouted to them. “I am healed. I can speak. Jesus has given me voice and now I hear!” Shrieks and shouts of amazement shot through the crowd as they saw the miracle before them. They began to clamor around Jesus, some with tears in their eyes. Jesus was carried along in the midst of the crowd as it flowed down the hill toward the village.

There was no escape from them. As they were swept along, like two prisoners, Jesus and the healed man exchanged glances. Despite the joy of his new hearing and speech, the man turned away from Jesus, his eyes were filled with shame. The once-deaf man realized he had failed to do the only thing that Jesus had asked of him.



Has Jesus performed a miracle in your life? All of us have prayed for a special intention. Unlike the man in the Gospel story we are not asked to “tell no-one about this.”

Instead we are invited to go out and preach to all nations, telling them about the good news of Jesus. This news is revealed in Scripture and in our own lives. When your prayers are answered it is God’s love for you revealed. When there is a miracle in your life it is a continuation of the Gospel.

Go tell the world!