



Sept. 9, 2018 Mark 7: 24-37 & Is. 35: 4-7a

www.theark1.com

Connie May © 8/4/18

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [You are Not Alone.](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Binding and Loosing](#)

https://newmelleray.org/Homily_Library

ENTERING THE SCENE:

If you have ever had a compelling need for help with a disease or impediment you can begin to appreciate the woman and man in this text. They obviously were on the lookout for Jesus, and even though he wanted to hide he couldn't. People tracked him down wherever he went. Once again Jesus commands them not to tell anyone but they do. The woman would not take no for an answer and the friends of the man begged on his behalf. When you reflect on this text, take time to remember when you were that woman or those friends. See what new insights this exercise brings.

Mk. 7:24-37

24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of **Tyre**. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence **secret**. 25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a **woman** whose little **daughter** was possessed by an **evil spirit** came and fell at his feet. 26 The **woman** was a **Greek**, born in **Syrian Phoenicia**. She **begged** Jesus to drive the **demon** out of her **daughter**. 27 First let the **children** eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the **children's** bread and toss it to their **dogs**." 28 Yes, **Lord**," she replied,

"but even the **dogs** under the table eat the **children's crumbs**." 29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the **demon** has left your **daughter**." 30 She went home and found her **child** lying on the bed, and the **demon** gone.

(Catholic lectionary reading starts here)

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of **Tyre** and went through **Sidon**, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the **Decapolis**. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was **deaf** and could hardly **talk**, and they **begged** him to place his hand on the man. 33 After he took him **aside**, away from the crowd, Jesus put his **fingers** into the man's **ears**. Then he **spit** and **touched** the man's **tongue**. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a **deep sigh** said to him, "**Ephphatha!**" (Which means, "**Be opened!**"). 35 At this, the man's **ears** were **opened**, his **tongue** was **loosened** and he began to **speak** plainly. 36 Jesus **commanded** them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept **talking** about it. 37 People were **overwhelmed** with **amazement**. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the **deaf** hear and the **mute** speak."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus never uses a person's disability or handicap to his own advantage. He protects the person's dignity and freedom by taking them aside to assure them that they are of utmost importance, not just a chance to prove his powers to the people. What does this tell you about Jesus' God?

PRAYER: Healer Jesus, your attempt to get some down time was frustrated by the ever pressing needs of people. Sometimes I too feel like just getting away and then something or someone frustrates my plans. Help me to respond with tenderness and grace so that I too can be a channel of God's love for others. Amen.