

Ephphatha, Be Open, In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost +

In the liturgical year we read many of the healing miracles of Jesus. He cleanses the lepers, drives out the demons, forgives the sin and restores people to health and wholeness. In each of these healing miracles there is an action and an instruction for us to consider.

Jesus tells the one who sought healing, "Your Faith has made you well" We are to learn that our faith is more real, more important than anything else in this life.

Jesus forgives the woman caught in adultery and then tells her, "Go and sin no more". We are to learn that we need to respond to God gifts of Grace, to go forth and to live the new life we have been given.

Jesus raises from the dead a young girl and then tells the parents, "Go and give her something to eat" We understand that we should always, rejoice in what God has done, and as he deals with the miraculous we are to deal with the ordinary of life. According to His will and pleasure.

Today we hear perhaps the most challenging words from Jesus: Be Open

**We are to be open to the Master, be open to Jesus....**

The Lord taught us in the Gospel of John,

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."*

John 14:6

The Lord wants us to open ourselves to him just as He opened himself to His disciples. He shared their lives, and they were allowed to share His life. He taught them and formed them to become the men who proclaim Him and by the Power of the Holy Cross and with Holy Ghost conquered the world.

He does the same today for those who are willing to be open to Him. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Nothing has changed and people are still dying who do not know Him.

We have the power to transform the world; Will you? Will you be open to Him?

**We are to be open to the promise and live in way that reflects your belief in God's Promise**

*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

John 5:24

I liked the flying nun as well as any guy my age and I remember Giget, but really have you listened to the commercials that she is doing now, "I have this one body and this one life so I use this product..." One body, one life, perhaps someone should show her a Bible and tell her about Jesus.

But it is not only one person simplistic statements. It is a culture which lives for today and believes only in what they can see and touch and reproduce scientifically. It is not to be so among Christians. We are to open, open to the promise of Christ and live knowing that we are eternal beings. When our life in this place has ended we live on in the Kingdom of God that is His promise.

We have only fully accepted the promise when we have shared the truth with others. Will you be open to the promise and tell someone?

The world will tell know one, to it is up to you and me.

**We are to be open to the possibilities.**

We are not to limit our thinking to what we believe is possible. The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said,

*"If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Luke 17:6*

Or consider the calming of the Storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus says one word and storm falls silent. The apostles are amazed, because they weren't open to the possibility that something greater than a prophet was in their midst.

Remember in the Gospel of Luke when Jesus is teaching about how hard it will be for those who are rich to enter into the Kingdom of God. He is teaching of those who love their possessions more than God. The Apostles realize that or human nature causes us to love what we have and to seek more, cry out then who can be saved and Jesus tells them that with men it is impossible..

*"But with God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:23b

We are not to be like turtles resting on our backs, waiting for someone to turn us over and set things right. We are to use the gifts and talents we have been given for ourselves, our families and for the world. And when are truly using our gifts in the selfless manner we are gifted to be co-creators with God and we build up the Kingdom of God. We do so as we show others the face of God as we love them into the Kingdom.

Our hands become His hands and reach out to touch and to heal. Jesus reached out and touched the man who could not hear or speak ad healed him. Today Jesus wants to touch all of us. He wants to open our ears, our hearts and our minds to Him. He wants us to be and live as Kingdom People in this world.

He wants to loosen our tongue so that we can praise Him, in our worship and when we proclaim Him to the world.

In the Gospel for this Sunday we read these words, “They brought to Him a man who was deaf and had an impediment to his speech” **They brought him**, his friends, those who knew the master brought him to Jesus; that Jesus would heal him.

Someone brought you, your parents, family or a friend. They brought you so that you could know the Master, be healed and be open.

Now go and do the same, be Open and Share what you believe and the new life what you have found.

AMEN