

Mark 7:24-37**The Faith of a Gentile Woman**

²⁴ Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. ²⁵ Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, ²⁶ and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, ²⁷ Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

³¹ Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. ³² A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

³³ Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" ³⁵ Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

³⁶ Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. ³⁷ They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

NLT

Please note

The funeral of our Lay Reader, Trevor May is on Thursday 16th September, 12 noon at Ashwater Church Refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards

The United Benefice of Ashwater, Beaworthy, Black Torrington, Clawton, Halwill, Highampton and Tetcott
Sunday 5th September

14th Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9.30 am Holy Communion , Ashwater

11.00 am Holy Communion, Halwill

11.00 am Café Church, Black Torrington

3.00 pm Walk, Service & Picnic, Luffincott & Tetcott

**Readings**

Isaiah 35: 4-7

James 2: 1-17

Mark 7: 24-37

Collect

Merciful God,

your Son came to save us

and bore our sins on the cross:

may we trust in your mercy

and know your love.

rejoicing in the righteousness

that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Interim Priest-in-Charge (part time)

Rev'd Stephen Skinner

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Mission Community: for all who live and work in our Mission Community

All who are mourning the death of a loved one including the family of Les Friend (*Beaworthy*), John Plummer (*Black Torrington*), Rachel Gilbert (*Black Torrington*), Steve Bridges (*Black Torrington*), Trevor May (*Tetcott/Ashwater*), Lynn Tyrrell (*Black Torrington*)

Rest in peace all who have recently died including Rachel Gilbert, Steve Bridges, Trevor May and Lynn Tyrrell

Those who are ill or in any kind of need and those who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, including Bryan Hancock, Grace Spelman, Mavis Watson, Peter and Maureen Ellis, Malcolm and Judith Lusted, Jenny Hyslop, Brian Colebrook-Clark, Tim Kirk

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 7th September	11.00 am	ZOOM Bible Study "Growing Older and Wiser"!
Wednesday 8th September	10.00 am	Morning Prayer Black Torrington Church
	1.30 pm	Memorial Service, Steve Bridges Black Torrington Church
	2.30 pm	Living in Love and Faith Hope Chapel, Black Torrington
Thursday 9th September	8.00 pm	ZOOM Compline
Friday 10th September	2.00 pm	Funeral Lynn Tyrrell Black Torrington Church
Saturday 11th September	9.45 am	Halwill & Beaworthy's Ride & Stridge meet at Chilla Chapel
Sunday 12th September	9.30 am	Morning Service Ashwater Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion Black Torrington Church
	11.00 am	Morning Service Clawton Church
	3.00 pm	Halwill United Churches Harvest Service Halwill Village Hall
	6.30 pm	BCP Evensong Beaworthy Church



Meeting ID:
317 183 8102
Passcode: 848984

Thought for Sunday 5th September 2021 14th Sunday after Trinity

When we look at the three readings set for this Sunday we can find plenty to think about and most of all hope, healing, words and actions, and God's love breaking through barriers to meet people in their need.

We all need to cling to that wonderful hope, expressed by the 'Great Prophet' Isaiah, that God will intervene and transform this world, conquer evil for good bringing justice and salvation to all of humanity.

This is the sort of hope we need to have to cling to in our troubled world today.

The letter of James shows part of his campaign, if we can call it that, to encourage his readers to understand that faith in Christ is meaningless unless that faith is shown in actions.

If we are to have new life in Christ it should result in good works. However those good works are not the thing that saves us, as it were, it is God that does that and our good actions, our loving our neighbour, is a response to our faith.

In the Gospel reading we have two healing miracles which show God's love breaking through seemingly impenetrable barriers to meet people in their need.

Firstly, when Jesus heals the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter, it was completely extraordinary for any Jewish teacher to have any contact with a Gentile and although Jesus had mainly limited his message to the Jews, incidents like this underline the fact that God's love reaches out to all regardless of nationality or race. Jesus took tremendous risks to demonstrate this.

The challenge for us is of course, are we prepared to do the same?

Then we see our Lord breaking through the barriers, so sadly, often caused by disability of any sort.

When Jesus heals the man who was deaf and dumb and cries out 'ephphatha' which means 'be opened' it is perhaps addressed not just to the man himself but an instruction for those present to be aware of God's saving activity.

Interestingly, we are told the more Jesus told those present not to talk about these happenings, the more they proclaimed the 'Good News' 'He has done all things well' they said.

We can always do likewise when we have occasion to do so!

Many blessings Jim