

“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.” Mark 7:37 NLT

lectio // Mark 7:31-37

Mark eases us into another story of Jesus making another trip to the “ten city” region. This is a similar area where the mad naked man roamed the cliffs on what was known as “pig island.” The crowd brings a man who is deaf and cannot speak clearly. They ask Jesus to heal him. He walks the man to a more private area, then spits on his own fingers and grabs the man’s tongue saying, “loose or open” and the man is instantly healed. Jesus tells them the usual, “don’t tell” line and the crowd being the crowd, tells everyone. Then the crowd was amazed and said “everything else does is wonderful.” Healings and miracles are wonderful. Yet, later, “the crowd” said something very different, very disturbing. They said, “crucify him.” Apparently Jesus wasn’t so wonderful to the crowd then. Yeah, I know it is said, that the “crowd” was filled with ringers, supplanting a lie. I also know that crowds or mobs are fickle, and can turn on a whim. They can be full of praise one day and full of poison another day. I don’t think Jesus listened or seriously took to heart either of the mob mentality, good or bad. In fact he spoke directly to his close followers when an individual would say something that would shape the environment in the wrong direction. Peter got sassy when Jesus had him assist in an object lesson by washing his feet. Peter could have captured the room by saying, “you’ll never wash my feet!” Jesus addressed the uncomfortable moment and said, “unless I do you won’t belong to me.” Peter was influential among his peers and Jesus addresses his wild, off-track comments immediately. A comment can catch quickly in a mob, then it spreads like fire. Be careful about listening to the crowd, the mob.

oratio

Dad,

Crowds can be so tricky. So many people have used the mob to rally an idea or a protest. Whole nations have been won over and convinced when a captivating comment has gained that peak moment by going viral. Here the crowd was amazed and thought you were so wonderful. It makes me wonder how much I am influenced either by desperately trying to win the crowd over or seeking that thrill of my words becoming viral. Who am I trying to please? Who am I wanting to gain the attention of?

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root