

Thought for the day – Friday 11th February 2022

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Away from the crowd

Mark 7:32-33a

³² ...some people brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd...

I am struck by how Jesus took the deaf man aside, away from the crowd.

There were times in His ministry when Jesus asked the crowds to believe in him because of the signs He had performed. But not this time.

Perhaps Jesus sensed that the crowd were using the deaf man for a show, to see a great miracle, to be entertained by the great showman, and they had little concern for the deaf man himself. Jesus, safeguards the dignity of the deaf man. He takes him aside, privately. And heals him, albeit using a slightly unorthodox technique!

It shows again the deep compassion he had. As in Matthew 9, He saw people in need, as human beings, for whom love compels us to help if possible, and that being the only reward needed.

That is a good example to any person in leadership, but it is really a good example to us all. To be more compassionate, and to safe guard the dignity of those we are privileged to be able to help. By taking an interest, giving our full attention, even for a brief time, and seeing the person in need of help as a fellow human being, not a means to an end.