



4th Sunday Ord. Time, Yr B

Lectio Divina

Lectio: We continue to read from chapter one of the Gospel of Mark. His Gospel began stating that it was: the Good News of Jesus Christ the Son of God (Mk 1:1). So Mark's texts help readers to understand how Jesus is the Son of God through relating Jesus' actions. Jesus shows who he is by his actions. So having chosen his first disciples, Jesus goes to Capernaum, north of Lake Galilee. He has promised to transform his fishermen disciples into fishers of men. What will happen? How will he prove himself and convince his disciples? So he goes to the Synagogue¹. They knew what to expect. The synagogue leaders would lead the chanting of Psalms and read texts from the Holy Scriptures. They would repeat, interpret and give other people's opinions. Others present would be invited to join in. When Jesus spoke, he talked from his heart and his understanding, without referring to other people's opinions; i.e. he spoke with an authority that was his own². Though the disciples and the people around Jesus were just getting to know him, the ever present devil knew who Jesus was. Jesus' power and authority was to be displayed on the Cross when he would be victorious over the devil. So he proves his power and authority by casting out the devil from the possessed man. This starts people and his disciples thinking about who Jesus is and that he looks like the one to follow.

Read: Mark 1: 21 - 28

Meditatio: Who is Jesus for me? How important are Jesus' teachings to me? Who do I look to as authorities? How do I treat people's opinions? Are the Scriptures authoritative for me? Do I take into account Church teachings and documents in making decisions? Do I speak from my heart? How much do I rely on the support of others when expressing my opinions? Have I experienced the workings of the devil in my life or in other people's lives? How do I cope with temptations? Do I trust that Jesus has overcome the devil and all his influences? How strong is my faith in Jesus as 'the Holy One of God'? Have I felt the power of the Lord's forgiveness e.g. after celebrating Reconciliation? Where have I seen the transforming power of Jesus at work? Do I share with others my faith and about my relationship with Jesus? Have I spread the Good News about Jesus and his power (authority)?

Oratio: Pray for a deep relationship with Jesus. Pray for a proper reference to other people's opinions especially through social media. Pray for those who are searching for God and/or for meaning in their lives. Pray for a better understanding of the Holy Scriptures as truly the Word of God. Pray for clergy and all given the responsibility to authoritatively share the Word of God. Pray for strength against temptations. Pray for people caught up in evil ways. Pray for those with mental health problems especially epilepsy. Pray for an appreciation of the teaching authority of the Church. Pray for a sharing of our faith and of our relationship with Jesus.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Use opportunities to share about your faith.

✍ Fr Joe

Mark 1: 21 - 28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach². And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Notes:

1 Religious authority was based in the local synagogues.

2 Mark does not give the details of Jesus’ teaching in the synagogue. This is in tune with his presentation which is short and precise. Whatever Jesus’ teaching was, the important thing was that it was different to the leaders of the synagogue. Jesus teaches on his own authority he does not have to draw on other people’s authority as the synagogue leaders needed to do.