



Daily Reflections

September 5, 2017

Scripture

Luke 4: 31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee.

He taught them on the sabbath,
and they were astonished at his teaching
because he spoke with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon,
and he cried out in a loud voice,

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy us?

I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him and said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

Then the demon threw the man down in front of them
and came out of him without doing him any harm.

They were all amazed and said to one another,

"What is there about his word?

For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits,
and they come out."

And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region.

Our Scripture Reflection

After His debut before the hometown crowd at the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus immediately travels to a synagogue in the town of Capernaum where He encounters a man with an evil spirit. The demon attempts to take charge

of the situation by challenging Jesus but to no avail. To the amazement of the congregation, Jesus expels the demon and in so doing frees the possessed man from the bondage of evil. The influence of Satan is no match for the authority of Jesus, back then and in our own day.

Food for your Journey

Of all Michelangelo's powerful figures, none is more poignant than the man in the Last Judgment being dragged down to hell by demons, one hand over one eye and in the other a look of dire recognition. He understood, but too late.

It's a familiar story, isn't it? Rarely do we see the truth that stares us in the face until it HITS us in the face. A crisis is seldom a crisis until it is validated by disaster. Michelangelo was right: Hell is truth seen too late.

--William Sloane Coffin, *Passion for the Possible: A Message to U.S. Churches* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), 5.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please watch over and protect me and my family from the power of evil. May I always trust in Your power to rescue me. Amen.