October 11, 2019

Scripture

Luke 11:15-26
When Jesus had driven out a demon, some of the crowd said:
"By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons,
he drives out demons."
Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven.
But he knew their thoughts and said to them,
"Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste
and house will fall against house.
And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?
For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons.
If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul,
by whom do your own people drive them out?
Therefore they will be your judges.
But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons,
then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.
When a strong man fully armed guards his palace,
is his possessions are safe.
But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him,
he takes away the armor on which he relied
and distributes the spoils.
Whoever is not with me is against me,
and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
"When an unclean spirit goes out of someone,
it roams through arid regions searching for rest
but, finding none, it says,
'I shall return to my home from which I came.'
But upon returning, it finds it swept clean and put in order.
Then it goes and brings back seven other spirits
more wicked than itself who move in and dwell there, and the last condition of that man is worse than the first."

Our Scripture Reflection

We must never be naive about evil. Believe it or not, the seminary I was ordered to attend in the 80’s never offered a class or lecture about evil, Satan or sin! In fact, if a student were to discuss such topics too often, they could expect to be referred to a psychologist for psychotherapy or even worse, dismissed from the school! My Friends, I can tell you with certainty...EVIL EXISTS. Satan is very real and quite active in our world. Sinning is a behavior that is much too frequent and most people, especially our younger people, have no idea as to what sin is. What are you to do? Pray, grow in holiness and read the scriptures and the Church’s Catechism. We fight sin with God’s Grace which is always more powerful than anything Satan can hurl in our direction.

Food for your Journey

Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, writing to fellow pastors, says, “There are some temptations your people face that it will take a team to tackle. We simply can’t overcome all temptations alone. We need other people to come alongside us and help. “Many people in our congregations have tried battling temptations for a long time. They’ve read all the right books, tried all the new methods and bought into all the latest fads — but nothing has changed. The truth is, we don’t really change without accountability. We’re kidding ourselves if we want to battle temptation but won’t let other people hold us accountable. “When we can be honest about temptations, that’s called authenticity. We don’t have to share our temptations with the whole world. You just have to be open with one person who will love and accept you unconditionally. When you tell that kind of person your secret sin, they don’t rub it in, they rub it out. … We all need an accountability partner who’ll listen to us, check up on us and ask us the hard questions. “ … Satan is out to get us. Every person in your congregation is vulnerable to temptation — including you. If you ever hear someone say they’re not tempted by anything, you can be sure of one thing — they’re not being honest.”

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I love You and I entrust my life and the lives of those I love to Your care. Protect us from Satan and every temptation to sin. Lord, the power of evil is enormous and overwhelming at times it seems, but Your Grace is the most powerful. Be with me on this life’s journey and if I fall, please pick me up and get me back on the road that leads to You. Amen