



Daily Reflections

January 31, 2021

Scripture

Mark 1:21-28

And they entered into Capharnaum, and forthwith upon the sabbath days going into the synagogue, he taught them.

And they were astonished at his doctrine. For he was teaching them as one having power, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Saying: What have we to do with thee, Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus threatened him, saying: Speak no more, and go out of the man.

And the unclean spirit tearing him, and crying out with a loud voice, went out of him.

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying: What thing is this? what is this new doctrine? for with power he commandeth even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.

And the fame of him was spread forthwith into all the country of Galilee.

Our Scripture Reflection

Mark records the majority of his miracle stories about Jesus in the first eight chapters of his Gospel. Why? Because he wants to demonstrate to us that Jesus IS the long-awaited Messiah.

1. He speaks with power and authority unlike the legalistic-minded scribes (lawyers). But He also speaks with tenderness and love.
2. He commands evil spirits and they obey Him immediately

It is no wonder, therefore, that His fame spreads like wildfire among the Jews and Gentiles alike.

Food for your Journey

God is no more blinding people with glaucoma, or testing them with diabetes, or purifying them with spinal pain, or choreographing the seeding of tumor cells through lymph, or fiddling with chromosomes, than he is jimmying floodwaters or pitching tornadoes at towns. God is no more cogitating which among us he plans to place here as bird-headed dwarfs or elephant men -- or to kill by AIDS or kidney failure, heart disease, childhood leukemia, or sudden infant death syndrome -- than he is pitching lightning bolts at pedestrians, triggering rock slides or setting fires. The very least likely things for which God might be responsible are what insurers call "acts of God."

--Annie Dillard, *For the Time Being* (Knopf Doubleday), 2010.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son Jesus to bring Your gift of salvation to the world by giving His life for us. The world had never known such love before Him nor has it known such love since Him. Help me, Father, to make His Presence known in the world today by my daily witness to Him in word and deed. In doing so may I draw people close to His most loving Heart. Amen