

October 14, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE POWER OF JESUS' WISDOM

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation, and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

LUKE 11:29-32

Reflection

In this section of Luke's Gospel, some people are demanding a sign from Jesus:

Where did you get this power? Show us! In response, Jesus contrasts the preaching of Jonah and the wisdom of Solomon with these powerful words: *there is something greater than Jonah and Solomon here!* As the spokesperson for God, Jesus speaks with greater power than the prophet Jonah and the wise King Solomon. What was their real motive when they demanded a sign? Were they looking for proof that Jesus' powers were from an evil source? What was the tone of the questioner's voice?



A Man Praying While Holding a Rosary
Photo by Cottonbro Studio

For Pondering

When I hear Jesus say in the presence of his hearers, ***there is something greater here*** than the preaching of Jonah and the wisdom of Solomon, I imagine Jesus' disappointment that his witnesses cannot perceive who Jesus is and from whom his power comes. This generation of leaders was looking for powerful, dramatic signs, yet before them stands the Holy One who humbly heals the sick and frees those possessed by demons and lifts up the lowly. I am reminded of Jesus' lament in another Lukan passage: as Jesus approached Jerusalem, he was weeping over the people he had longed to gather close to himself as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wing. (13:34; 19:41-42)

For Prayer

*God of wisdom, teach me the right words.
Teach me the very words
that will touch the hearts and souls of others.
When a friend needs my understanding ear,
teach me the words to say that will strengthen,
that will encourage,
that will express only my love and concern.*

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