

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

ANOTHER "YIELDING OF POWER" TEACHING

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

MARK 9:38-40

Reflection

In this scene, the author Mark continues to emphasize Jesus' instruction on the yielding of power. The apostles (through their spokesperson John) display envy and intolerance of those they identify as outsiders -- that is, not members of their community. Even more so as they note these outsiders are performing exorcisms in Jesus' name, a name and ministry they claim as "theirs," being

professed followers of Jesus. They treat ministry as a “power” competition rather than a freely given Divine gift of service.



Joyful young multiethnic guys shaking hands on city street
Photo by William Fortunato

For Pondering

- What do you identify as your Divine gift of ministry today? Have you noticed others joining you in living out that ministry? Are they professed followers of Jesus? If not, what/who do you think energizes them for ministry?
 - Where do you exercise your perceived power? In what ways does God companion you in that? What do you say to God about your power?
 - In what ways do others, especially those who are not of your faith community, share your God-given power to heal, to forgive, to care for?
-

For Prayer

*Dear God,
free me of the arrogance
that accompanies an inflated self-image.*

*Spare me from haughtiness,
from the overloaded ego
which stems from an empty self.
Let me learn to feel good
about myself;
let me never feel the need
to belittle anyone
in order to find
value and worth,
in order to feel
valued and worthy.*

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