



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

A DAY IN CAPERNAUM

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

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.

LUKE 4:31-37

Reflection

After being rejected at Nazareth, Jesus went to the city of Capernaum, an important trade center, which became his base during his ministry in Galilee. This passage begins in the local synagogue where Jesus taught the people on the sabbath. Imagine the scene when Jesus was speaking with grace and power, his words evoking the amazement of all the people. And then, the startling voice of a man with an unclean spirit, shouting, challenging the presence of Jesus, the Holy One of God, in this sacred place. Immediately, Jesus' word cleansed the man, and the demon had no more power over him. Imagine the joy of the man being made whole again and reconnected with his community. Mystery and wonder captured the people as they witnessed Jesus' authority, his power and wisdom ... joyful news of Jesus spread everywhere.



Silhouette of person praying
Photo by Rodolfo Clix

For Pondering

Jesus, the Holy One of God, draws on his intimate relationship with God and frees a man burdened by an evil spirit. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, speaks for God with power and majesty. As I ponder this story in the synagogue of Capernaum, what word might I ask Jesus to say in my behalf?

- Is there a healing I am yearning for?
- Am I burdened by a destructive influence or plagued by an addictive habit?
- Am I weighed down by resentment or unforgiveness that leads me away from you?

For Prayer

Teach Me Your Paths

*Show, O Lord, your ways to me,
and teach me your paths.*

*Direct me in your truth and teach me;
for you are God, my Savior.*

BLESSED PETER FABER, SJ

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