

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Jan 31st, for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Good and gracious God, thank you for drawing us together for fellowship and the sharing of your holy Word. Open our minds and hearts to hear the message you want to convey to us. May your Word grow strong in our hearts so that others may come to know and love you through the witness of our lives. Amen.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 1:29-39

The Cure of Simon’s Mother-in-Law.

29^m On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

30 Simon’s mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her.

31 He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

Other Healings.

32 When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

33 The whole town was gathered at the door.

34 He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Jesus Leaves Capernaum.

35^a Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.

36 Simon and those who were with him pursued him

37 and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.”

38 He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

39 So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Notes

* [[1:21–45](#)] The account of a single day’s ministry of Jesus on a sabbath in and outside the synagogue of Capernaum ([Mk 1:21–31](#)) combines teaching and miracles of exorcism and healing. Mention is not made of the content of the teaching but of the effect of astonishment and alarm on the people. Jesus’ teaching with authority, making an absolute claim on the hearer, was in the best tradition of the ancient prophets, not of the scribes. The narrative continues with events that evening ([Mk 1:32–34](#); see notes on [Mt 8:14–17](#)) and the next day ([Mk 1:35–39](#)). The cleansing in [Mk 1:40–45](#) stands as an isolated story.

* [[1:23](#)] An unclean spirit: so called because of the spirit’s resistance to the holiness of God. The spirit knows and fears the power of Jesus to destroy his influence; cf. [Mk 1:32, 34](#); [3:11](#); [6:13](#).

* [[1:24–25](#)] The Holy One of God: not a confession but an attempt to ward off Jesus’ power, reflecting the notion that use of the precise name of an opposing spirit would guarantee mastery over him. Jesus silenced the cry of the unclean spirit and drove him out of the man.

* [[1:24](#)] What have you to do with us?: see note on [Jn 2:4](#).

* [[1:40](#)] A leper: for the various forms of skin disease, see [Lv 13:1–50](#) and the note on [Lv 13:2–4](#). There are only two instances in the Old Testament in which God is shown to have cured a leper ([Nm 12:10–15](#); [2 Kgs 5:1–14](#)). The law of Moses provided for the ritual purification of a leper. In curing the leper, Jesus assumes that the priests will reinstate the cured man into the religious community. See also note on [Lk 5:14](#).

a. [[1:2–8](#)] [Mt 3:1–11](#); [Lk 3:2–16](#).

b. [[1:2](#)] [Mal 3:1](#).

c. [[1:3](#)] [Is 40:3](#); [Jn 1:23](#).

d. [[1:8](#)] [Jn 1:27](#); [Acts 1:5](#); [11:16](#).

e. [[1:9–11](#)] [Mt 3:13–17](#); [Lk 3:21–23](#); [Jn 1:32–33](#).

- f. [[1:11](#)] [Ps 2:7](#).
- g. [[1:12-13](#)] [Mt 4:1-11](#); [Lk 4:1-13](#).
- h. [[1:14-15](#)] [Mt 4:12-17](#); [Lk 4:14-15](#).
- i. [[1:15](#)] [Mt 3:2](#).
- j. [[1:16-20](#)] [Mt 4:18-22](#); [Lk 5:2-11](#).
- k. [[1:21-28](#)] [Lk 4:31-37](#).
- l. [[1:22](#)] [Mt 7:28-29](#).
- m. [[1:29-34](#)] [Mt 8:14-16](#); [Lk 4:38-41](#).
- n. [[1:35-39](#)] [Lk 4:42-44](#).
- o. [[1:40-44](#)] [Mt 8:2-4](#); [Lk 5:12-14](#).
- p. [[1:41](#)] [5:30](#).
- q. [[1:42](#)] [Lk 17:14](#).
- r. [[1:44](#)] [Lv 14:2-32](#).

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In the Gospel, Jesus finds time for prayer in the midst of a very busy schedule. Do you have a challenge in this area? If so, how do you make space for prayer as you do all the other things in your daily life?
2. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.
3. What are forces of evil that you or others have to deal with? What helped you during those times?

Commentary

The Gospel, deals with the issue of evil and sickness. It recounts “days in the life of Jesus.” These verses weave together four events. In the first event, Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law. After being healed, she immediately gets up and begins to serve. Jesus’ action involves healing, leading to service and discipleship. “The greatest in the kingdom is the one who serves.” The second event could be titled Healing and Deliverance Service in the Streets. In this event, Jesus directly confronts his enemies, namely, evil and sickness, and he demonstrates his power over both. Notice that Jesus forbids the demons to reveal his identity. This is known as the “messianic secret.” The popular understanding of the Messiah’s role is

political and military—one who will lead the people in rebellion against the Romans and restore the glory of Israel. Jesus knows that it is not God’s will for him to fulfill this understanding of Messiahship. He is going to be a suffering Messiah who will triumph through suffering—something the people will not fully comprehend until after the Resurrection. In the third event, Jesus teaches the importance of balancing a busy schedule with time for quiet and solitude. He shows us his need to “get away from it all” and to spend time “recharging spiritual and emotional batteries.” However, the disciples chase after him saying, “Everyone is looking for you.” In the fourth event, Jesus heads back to the ministry of teaching and preaching, casting out demons along the way.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Wednesday, Jan 31 6:30 – 7:30pm

Weekly on Wednesday

Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 31, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/join?pwd=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-iwpiFdj_oPzWjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89811466699?pwd=UVdFVmo1SmJObUJqc3VqcytQOTdpQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 1146 6699

Passcode: 284618