

Since we have known His life and deeds, it is not wondrous to see Jesus enter the synagogue every Saturday. He is the only Son of God, our Omnipotent Father, incarnated. Divine nature incarnated into human flesh and blood. Having become human being he agreed to accept, and adopt all human, cultural and religious traditions of the age he was born in. So we are not surprised to see Him enter God's house on Saturday to worship God together with his contemporaries.

But we might be surprised to see a man possessed by an evil spirit in the synagogue. Jesus enters the synagogue to teach about God's law. Suddenly it turns out that there is somebody among the lines of the audience who is not a man of his own, who is possessed by the enemy of God, who is kept bounded by an evil spirit. The undercover spirit mounts an offensive!

The evil spirit knows Jesus, calls him by his name „Jesus of Nazareth“, he even recognizes and points out his divine origin. „I know you are the holy One of God!“ It seems like a confession, but is it really? No it is not! The evil spirit sharply knows who Jesus is, but he denies his divine lead. He does not accept Him as his Lord, and God.

How does this evil spirit behave? First, he denies Jesus power above himself mainly because he does not want to release the man possessed by him. He also wants to keep Jesus, the deliverer far away from this man, he wants to send him away, he is afraid of Jesus. He knows Jesus's power very well, but he denies his right over himself and the possessed man. Jesus is strong, the evil spirit tries to avoid confrontation with Him as long as possible. Tries to keep out of Jesus's circle.

But God' Son has a clear purpose, he has not come in vain. He is to fulfill his mission. His words and deeds are in harmony, they match very well, they explain each other. He teaches with the power of God, and operates with the power of God.

Text: Mark 1:21-28

1' Christ has been with us even since today. He himself wants to be present in his Church, helping his disciples living today. Thank you, o Risen Lord that we might hear Your voice even today. We feel in the depth of our hearts that You do not give us a simple human teaching. Your teaching is full of power and dynamic, that is really different from any kind of human power adjusted to this world. Your words give us the gentle Truth of God. That is the truth of Love.

2' Sometimes we are surprised to see that people around us, and sometimes even we in our hearts are bound by evil thoughts and deeds. We are often fettered by our own instincts.

3' If we ask our Contemporaries we hardly find any, who denies God's existence. There might be somebody outside, a greater Intelligence - they say - or something like that... but most of them do not really believe what they say. They live according to their own laws although with their words they confess God but they do not follow him with their acts.

4' Sometimes it happens even to us, that we are unsympathetic to our fellows. When we say „I do not have anything to do with you“ „That is your problem“, „leave me alone“ than we refuse community with them, we do not take solidarity.

5' But we see that despite of all our tight bonds, and weaknesses, God wants to set us free. He does not leave us alone in the power of evil spirits. His Power is very strong and alive even today, and attested by his acts. Where we give place to Jesus's words and acts the evil must take a refuge.

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We see from the gospel that Jesus meets a man possessed by an evil spirit. Before this case he has seen a lot of people physically ill, but this is a more complex case. One would say that this man is mentally ill, but this is not really true. This is not a mental illness. This man is possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. This is a much more worse case.

Lets see this concrete situation from a more interesting angle. This man is in the middle of two circles: The first circle means the power of the evil spirit torturing the man's soul as well as his body. Then comes the second circle of power opposing this evil spirit possessing the man: Jesus himself. He represents God's power. His authority is realistic. He teaches with power and heals with power. This power coming towards the man makes the evil spirit frightened. The man himself suddenly is standing in the middle of a battlefield: two forces fighting for him. One, trying to keep him in a bounded and inhuman state, it possesses the man. But on the other side Jesus come to repair his mental and spiritual health, and trying to make him free. Jesus wants to unbound him, to make him free, to repair his humanity as it is created by God.

The evil spirit is frightened: he says: *"Jesus of Nazareth what do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: The Holy One of God."* It's starting: The evil exactly knows who Jesus is. He calls him in his name, he knows how people call him: *"Jesus of Nazareth"*. He also recognizes Jesus' status: He is *"the Holy One of God"*. He says: Leave me alone, stay away, go away, you do not have any business with my man. He is mine. he seems to be unconcerned to God's power to save his own.

Just think of this whenever I say to an other man, You do not have any right to disturb my circles, I do not care about you at all either, your business is not my business, go away, - I am unconcerned, I behave like the evil who wants to keep Jesus away from his possessed man.

Lot of people standing around listening to Jesus's teaching. *"he taught them with authority"*. People have been astonished by his teaching, by his words already. But now- they might be really puzzled: not only Jesus words but his deeds are full of power: His deeds and his words are also under the power of God.