

Fr. Rito's Homily

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 28, 2018

12:15 PM Mass (in Spanish) and 5:00 PM Sunday Youth

Today, we celebrate the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. On this Sunday, God reveals in His word to us a message of hope and life. When the people of Israel were afraid and did not want to hear the voice of the Lord directly, God revealed himself through natural signs such as fire and thunder.

They were afraid to die and they asked for an intercessor to listen to God. As God's prophet Moses communicates to the people the good news: God will bring up a prophet like me. The mission of the prophet is to speak only the word of God. These promises made to the people of Israel are fulfilled in Christ. Christ is the perfect prophet. Anointed by the Father so that we may listen to his voice. Jesus is the voice from a merciful shepherd, attentive to the needs of his people.

Today's Gospel, introduces us to Jesus in Capernaum. This town was populated by sinners, farmers, artisans, merchants and tax collectors. In this town there were no inequalities of economic and political classes. Capernaum even had a good relationship with the Romans. It is in this place where Jesus meets the Roman Centurion, and Jesus cured his servant by just saying a word. Jesus shares and lives in the midst of his people. Jesus becomes part of them to nourish them with the word of eternal life.

Jesus, like all pious Jews, went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, to fulfill the Old Testament commandment. Jesus is remembering the Sabbath to sanctify it. People went to the synagogues to seek and listen to God. Today, in this gospel text, they are listening directly to God in the person of Jesus. They were used to listening to the Scribes and Pharisees. Now, listening to Jesus, they discover something different because he does not reference someone else's sources, Jesus speaks on his own authority.

The teaching of Jesus has an authority to liberate, heal, and forgive all who are enslaved by evil. In the Gospel we can see that when the scribes preached the future salvation, the devil did not feel uncomfortable, but it feels bad when the salvation is right now revealed in Jesus: the evil protests and opposes the message of Jesus, when he says: "Have you come to destroy us?" The unclean spirits are the first to recognize the holiness of Jesus: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God!"

When Jesus enters into the hearts of people, the evil recedes immediately, because his power has come to an end. Jesus has come to free us and to fill us with his holiness.



Today, Jesus wants to free us from the physical and spiritual evils that are opposed to the message of salvation.

Let you and I with Jesus come to visit the synagogue of our lives to be freed from our evils, which are attacking the dignity of the people. These evils are revealed in the lack of patience and tolerance for others.

There are also other social ills that need to be overcome by Jesus. The world of sin today: premature deaths of innocent people, hunger, wars, terrorist attacks against innocent people, corruption and political fanaticism in all parts of the world.

Today, Jesus invites you and me to collaborate with him and fight against these evils that rob us of peace. Jesus asks us today to review our inner self, in order to free ourselves from the bad things that accuse us, envelop us, blind us and bring us down.

God is with us and fights with us so that evil can be overcome within us, if we listen to the voice of the Lord with a docile heart. And if you have fallen, rise up with the power of Jesus. We are not alone. The secret to be strong in the fight against evil is to listen to the word of God and not the human words.

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To recognize the authority of Jesus is to seek him, to serve him, to love him and to follow him faithfully. Jesus needs you to manifest his authority against the evil of today.

Amen.

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Amen.

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 28, 2018

12:15 PM Mass (in Spanish) and 5:00 PM Sunday Youth

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They were afraid to die and they asked for an intercessor to listen to God. As God's prophet Moses communicates to the people the good news: God will bring up a prophet like me. The mission of the prophet is to speak only the word of God. These promises made to the people of Israel are fulfilled in Christ. Christ is the perfect prophet. Anointed by the Father so that we may listen to his voice. Jesus is the voice from a merciful shepherd, attentive to the needs of his people.

Today's Gospel, introduces us to Jesus in Capernaum. This town was populated by sinners, farmers, artisans, merchants and tax collectors. In this town there were no inequalities of economic and political classes. Capernaum even had a good relationship with the Romans. It is in this place where Jesus meets the Roman Centurion, and Jesus cured his servant by just saying a word. Jesus shares and lives in the midst of his people. Jesus becomes part of them to nourish them with the word of eternal life.

Jesus, like all pious Jews, went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, to fulfill the Old Testament commandment. Jesus is remembering the Sabbath to sanctify it. People went to the synagogues to seek and listen to God. Today, in this gospel text, they are listening directly to God in the person of Jesus. They were used to listening to the Scribes and Pharisees. Now, listening to Jesus, they discover something different because he does not reference someone else's sources, Jesus speaks on his own authority.

The teaching of Jesus has an authority to liberate, heal, and forgive all who are enslaved by evil. In the Gospel we can see that when the scribes preached the future salvation, the devil did not feel uncomfortable, but it feels bad when the salvation is right now revealed in Jesus: the evil protests and opposes the message of Jesus, when he says: "Have you come to destroy us?" The unclean spirits are the first to recognize the holiness of Jesus: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God!"

When Jesus enters into the hearts of people, the evil recedes immediately, because his power has come to an end. Jesus has come to free us and to fill us with his holiness.



Today, Jesus wants to free us from the physical and spiritual evils that are opposed to the message of salvation.

Let you and I with Jesus come to visit the synagogue of our lives to be freed from our evils, which are attacking the dignity of the people. These evils are revealed in the lack of patience and tolerance for others.

There are also other social ills that need to be overcome by Jesus. The world of sin today: premature deaths of innocent people, hunger, wars, terrorist attacks against innocent people, corruption and political fanaticism in all parts of the world.

Today, Jesus invites you and me to collaborate with him and fight against these evils that rob us of peace. Jesus asks us today to review our inner self, in order to free ourselves from the bad things that accuse us, envelop us, blind us and bring us down.

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