

## **Homily For Tuesday of the 22nd Week of Ordinary Time- Year II**

### **St Peter's 8:30am Mass- Sept. 4, 2018**

**1 Cor 2:10-16** "the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

**Psalms 145:8-14** "The Lord is gracious and merciful."

**Luke 4:38-44** "With authority and power he commands the unclean spirits."

#### **Intro**

Yesterday all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed ... but then they were filled with rage and wanted to kill him. Today they were astounded at his teaching and amazed at his power over the unclean spirit ... and gossip about him spread all over the region.

A week ago, Peter answered a question from Jesus with: To whom else shall we go? We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. Today the demon says to Jesus: Let us alone! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.

#### **Theme**

These reactions seem obvious enough. But both St. Luke and St. Paul give us a key to understanding and appreciating their difference. It has to do with spirit, which is used in a number of ways throughout Sacred Scripture, and even in our short passages. It may be worth trying to sort out what spirit is being talked about.

#### **Application**

There is the human spirit, which we all possess- it is an essential part of our nature, integrated with our physical selves, and gives us insight into our human experience. Or at least it can.

There is the spirit of the world- which only understands things of the material world, unconnected with a deeper spirit. It is divided from the Spirit of God.

There is that Spirit of God, which we know as the Holy Spirit, the 3rd Person of the Blessed Trinity, revealed to us as the One who inspires our faith and our actions.

The demon, cast out by Jesus, is a spiritual being. It has a certain kind of insight. It can even recognize "the Holy One of God", but is hostile to that same Holy One and the Spirit.

In addition to all of these spirits, we can also experience a certain kind of spirit, attitude or state that we can describe in spiritual terms. There is a spirit of anger, of sadness, of unforgiveness, of lust, etc. These influence the character of our lives.

We know that, today, many people describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." This is a strange expression. On the one hand, to be spiritual is as obvious as being physical. We have both of these in our natures. On the other hand, I believe it reflects a contemporary desire to make spirituality into a solitary experience. It would be like saying, "I am physical but I never eat with others, only by myself." It is a denial of the fullness of our spiritual natures.

In reality, as Paul suggests, there are those who are spiritual and those who are unspiritual. How each of these receive the gifts that God offers us, is determined by whether we are one or the other. The spiritual have insight into what God wants to give us. The unspiritual cannot receive those gifts. They are in a kind of denial of their spiritual nature.

### **Call To Action**

We have the ultimate gift that needs to be recognized by our spirit and the Spirit which wants to live within us. We have the mind of Christ and, today at mass, we have his full presence: body, blood, soul and divinity.