

Scripture Lesson for January 31, 2021 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Introduction: The Gospel Lesson Mark 1:21-28

In the very first chapter of Mark, Jesus calls his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, and James and his brother, John. Jesus doesn't waste any time getting started with his healing ministry. Listen to the story of Jesus healing "the man with an unclean spirit,," from Mark 1:21-28 from The Message:

A Reading from Mark 1:21-28

²¹⁻²² Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

²³⁻²⁴ Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, "What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you're up to! You're the Holy One of God, and you've come to destroy us!"

²⁵⁻²⁶ Jesus shut him up: "Quiet! Get out of him!" The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

²⁷⁻²⁸ Everyone there was spellbound, buzzing with curiosity. "What's going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and tells them to get lost!" News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.