

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, March 3, 2016

By Sister Sandra DeNardis



Luke 11:14-23

In this Gospel, Luke points out to us the occasion when Jesus drove out the demon from the mute victim. What a merciful act! Jesus chooses to relieve the suffering of this person. His ever compassionate heart reaches out to free him and show the love of the Father for all sufferers.

There were those in the crowd who reveled in the miracle and recognized God's love for the man and in turn for themselves. There were those whose mind took a devious turn, to accuse Jesus of driving out the demon through Beelzebub. They were not openly saying this but screamed it in their minds.

Jesus took the time to uncover their thoughts and bring them into the light, so that His miracle might be a teaching moment. If I do this by the power of Satan, how do you cast out demons? If I do it by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God is here.

Jesus not only relieved the mute person, but He relieved all of us of the doubts that asked who He was and for whom He stood. In contemplating this Gospel, we are drawn to a place of merciful love of the Father, for His love of His creation. God, through Jesus, welcomes us into His embrace and shows us the path to union with Him. He reaches through the specific time and place and shows us the way, the truth, and gives us the strength to follow Him. These are not smooth paths that He opens up to us; but through the strength of Jesus' example we, too, can find our way to Him. We can know that Jesus, a mortal in a mortal body, has walked the most painful path to the Father.

The Kingdom of God is here.