

Text: Mark 1:29-39

Theme: A Powerful Coming Out

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, as well as those watching online, the text for our meditation this morning is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter verses twenty-nine through thirty-nine.

Boys and girls how are you doing today? Good? Excellent! Have you ever been lost? Maybe you were in a store or a park, and suddenly you couldn't see your parents anymore. It can be very scary to be lost. You don't know where to go. You can't find your way. But if you get lost, your parents and other people will come looking for you. It is such a good feeling to be found!

When Jesus came to earth, he had a lot of work to do. He taught the people about the kingdom of God. He told them that God loved them. People who were sick came to Jesus, and he made them well. Crowds of people followed Jesus to listen to him and to be healed. So many people came that Jesus was busy all day, teaching and helping and healing them. So, very early in the morning, even before sunrise, Jesus would go outside to find a quiet place to pray to his heavenly Father.

One day, while Jesus was outside praying, his disciples were looking for him, but they couldn't find him. Was Jesus lost? The disciples looked everywhere and finally found him! They told Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus said, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out" (Mk 1:37-38). So Jesus went to many different towns to teach about God and heal the sick.

Of course, Jesus wasn't really lost. He had just found a quiet place to pray. Jesus wasn't lost; he came to find us who were lost! Without Jesus, we were lost in sin. That means we didn't know what to do about our sins. We didn't know how to be forgiven. Without Jesus, we didn't know how to get to heaven. But Jesus said that he came "to seek and to save the lost" (Lk 19:10). He died on the cross and rose from the dead for us. When we were baptized, the Holy Spirit created faith in our hearts. We believe that Jesus is our Savior. We are not lost in sin anymore! Because Jesus died for us, our sins are forgiven. Jesus is the way to heaven. We were lost, and Jesus found us!

When Jesus lived on earth, many people came to him for help. Many people today don't know about Jesus. They don't know that he can help and save them. They are lost in their sins. They don't know the way to heaven. We can tell people about Jesus and his love. We can tell them that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus loves them, and he came to find and save them!

Have you ever been lost? We may not be children, but we have certainly been lost at times. We have been lost in the darkness of our own sins. Lost in the lusts of our physical flesh, lost in lying time after time, lost in disrespecting those in authority over us, lost by putting other things in the place of God. Lost by not loving our neighbor as ourselves. Lost in the power of sin, death, and the clutches of the devil. We cannot come out of this darkness on our own. We cannot save ourselves. We need Jesus to come out and save us.

Jesus knows this as He walked upon the earth. Thus why He comes out in power. As the only begotten Son of the Father, Jesus has all authority. Jesus uses this authority for the good of those who come to Him. He shows His power by doing many miraculous things in our text for today, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law by merely touching her and lifting her up. She is restored back to fullness of health and fulfills her vocation by serving and waiting on them. He exorcizes of demons from those possessed and suffering, the healing of a wide variety of illnesses of those afflicted. Everyone in the crowds see this and are amazed. They want Jesus to do more of that type of healing. Yet, that is not why Jesus came. Jesus came not to be only a physical healer but as our Savior. Thus why He says that they must leave and go to other towns and villages so that more can hear of the Gospel for them.

Jesus comes with power, but also with grace and mercy in order to do the Father's will. What is the Father's will? That Jesus come in the midst of our darkness, finds us, and saves us, bringing us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Jesus shows His Mercy by coming into His creation. The Perfect One in the midst of our sinful world. Jesus comes to take upon Himself our sins, our shame, our punishment. He comes fully satisfying the full wrath of God on our behalf with His perfect life, with the shedding of his innocent blood and death upon the cross. Rising again from the dead, He gives to us the forgiveness of our sins, the salvation of our souls, and new life with Him forever and ever in His Kingdom.

What is our response to Jesus coming in Power, Grace, and Mercy? We tell others who do not know Jesus about what He has done for us. Just as in our text, not everyone knows who Jesus really is as Lord and Savior. Some think that He is merely a good teacher or miracle worker, a good person but not the Savior. We know better because of the Holy Spirit at work in us to create and sustain faith in us. Because of Jesus, we are no longer lost, Jesus found us in His great coming out!

May we always give thanks to God as we proclaim His great message, Him who brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Now may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.