

[66] **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** B

FIRST READING

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth
and he will tell them all I command.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

18:18-19

The Lord said to Moses:

I will choose one of their own people to be a prophet like you.
I will give my message to that prophet,
who will tell the people exactly what I have said.
That prophet will speak in my name,
and anyone who doesn't obey the message will have to answer to me.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

95:1-2, 6-7 abcd

*R. (8) If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Sing joyful songs to the Lord!
Praise the mighty rock
where we are safe.
Come to worship him
with thankful hearts
and songs of praise.

*R. If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.*

Bow down and worship
the Lord our Creator!
The Lord is our God,
and we are his people,
the sheep he takes care of
in his own pasture.

*R. If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.*

ALLELUIA

Matthew 4:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A people in darkness have seen a great light;
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Here was a teaching with authority behind it.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to the town of Capernaum.

Then on the next Sabbath he went into the Jewish meeting place
and started teaching.

Everyone was amazed at his teaching.

He taught with authority,
and not like the teachers of the Law of Moses.

Suddenly a man with an evil spirit in him
entered the meeting place and yelled,
“Jesus from Nazareth, what do you want with us?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are!
You are God’s Holy One.”

Jesus told the evil spirit,
“Be quiet and come out of the man!”
The spirit shook him.
Then it gave a loud shout and left.

Everyone was completely surprised and kept saying to each other,
“What is this?
It must be some new kind of powerful teaching!
Even the evil spirits obey him.”
News about Jesus quickly spread all over that part of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to use our power to help others. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Readings:

Deuteronomy 18:18-19

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7 abcd

Mark 1:21-28

Reflection and Discussion:

What does it mean to have power? Usually it means to have the ability to influence how other people behave. For example, parents and teachers create rules that children must follow. Government officials make laws that citizens must obey. Is power good or bad? It depends on how it is used. Sometimes people with power hurt other people or make their lives miserable. But there are also people who use their power to help others. Jesus had tremendous power. He could change water into wine, he could multiply bread and fish, he could bring people back to life, he could heal people, and as we see today, he could order demons to leave. He could also make people leave their lives to follow him and help him. Think of what he could have done if he had wanted to take over the world! He could have had armies of people fight for him. He could have defeated all the rules. Many people were very disappointed that he didn't. Many people, in fact, were afraid that was what he was going to do which is why they killed him. Jesus, however, did not want to take over the government. He wanted to take over hearts. He didn't want people hurt or to fight. He wanted people to love and help each other. He used his power for good.

Can you think of other examples of this from the movies and history? In Star Wars, Luke uses the Force to help the rebel alliance but Darth Vader uses it to hurt and control others. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired people to look for non-violent ways to work for better treatment of African Americans while other leaders during that time period were telling people to literally fight for equal rights. Even though he didn't use violence, some people were afraid of how powerful Dr. King was so they killed him.

All of these examples show us that the most respected, powerful people led without hurting others and are respected because they treated people well and tried to help others.

Can kids be powerful? They don't usually get to make the rules and they have to do what adults tell them to do. They can, however, lead other kids or manipulate them into doing things. Kids who are bullies think they are powerful because other kids do what they want because they are afraid of them. Sometimes they use physical violence to scare the other kids and sometimes they use emotional tactics. They tell other kids such things as they will not have any friends unless they do what they want them to do. The popular kids also have a lot of power because other kids want to be like them and be their friend. It's important for

(continued on page 2)

kids to know that they have power and that they need to use it to set good examples and to help others. Just like Jesus, they need to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, respectfully and with love. Also like Jesus and Dr. King, they need to use their power without hurting others either physically or emotionally.

Activity: Rock, Paper, Scissors

Separate the class into several groups of 2 or 3 children. Let them play several rounds of Rock, Paper, Scissors.

The game is played by having 2 or 3 kids simultaneously hits their fists into their other hand 3 times then make the hand symbol for rock (fist), paper (holding hand flat) or scissors (hold up 2 fingers). Rock can break scissors, scissors can cut paper, paper can cover rock.

Talk about how Rock seems to be strongest and have the most power but it can be defeated by the "weaker" paper.