

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

It is the end of Satan.

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him,' and 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

9 JUNE 2024

BELONGING TO JESUS

Just before today's Gospel, the crowds following Jesus continue to grow forcing him to preach from a boat on the Sea of Galilee. They come from far and wide, from Galilee and Judea. The mission is going well, so well that today's passage opens with the crowd gathering again 'so that Jesus and his disciples 'could not even have a meal'.

This Gospel takes the form of a 'Markan sandwich' with one story inserted in the middle of another. The opening lines link to the concluding lines. Common to the whole episode is the theme of belonging to Jesus.

It is unclear exactly who tried to restrain Jesus, convinced he was out of his mind. The Jerusalem Bible indicates this was his family, but the Greek is less clear about who 'they' are. It could be those inside the house with Jesus, the newly appointed Twelve plus other disciples. Or it could be people in the crowd outside preventing them from eating their meal.

Switching to the scribes from Jerusalem, who link to an earlier plot against Jesus, we hear them accuse Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul. No wonder Jesus speaks of a house divided. He is not recognised as the Messiah by those who should accept him.

Returning to the house, the mother, brothers and sisters of Jesus have arrived, standing outside. Inside Jesus is encircled by a crowd. When advised his family is outside, he declares 'Anyone who does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother'. Across the stories, inside and outside, he marks out who is the new family of Jesus.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 3: 9-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

I will make you enemies of each other: your offspring and her offspring.

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,

'Be accursed beyond all cattle,
all wild beasts.

You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other:
you and the woman,

your offspring and her offspring.

It will crush your head
and you will strike its heel.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord,
hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to
the voice of my pleading. **R.**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord,
who would survive? / But with you is found
forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on
his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord /
more than watchman for daybreak. **R.**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and
fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will
redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**



SECOND READING

2 Cor 4: 13–5: 1

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians.

We believe, and therefore we speak.

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, and therefore I spoke – we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made with human hands, in the heavens.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 31, 32

Alleluia, alleluia! The prince of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord. Alleluia!