





**Gospel** Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

*Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The question of legitimacy of ministry is not a new one. There is a certain amount of tension between the institutional and the charismatic aspects of the church. To say that one is Spirit-driven and the other is not is to misunderstand Jesus' promise to remain with the church until the end of time. God normally calls ministers through the structures of the community. The authorities of the church are usually the ones who make the ultimate decisions about the needs of the church, how these needs are to be met, and who is to meet them. That is one of the responsibilities of their office.

However, God calls in other ways as well. A solid biblical tradition maintains that the Spirit is not confined to human structure or custom. We see this in the judges, the prophets, and even the early kings. The Pentecost story describes the coming of the Spirit upon all people - sons and daughters, young and old, slaves and free. When God calls it is up to us to recognise that call and to test its spirit. Perhaps the primary criterion we have for judging is the biblical measure: By their fruits you shall know them.

Today we also see that those who benefit from exploitation of the vulnerable will reap the fruits of their sin. This warning stems from the belief in the justice of God. Just as we believe that God will not allow the righteous to go unrewarded, so we are confident that neither will the wicked escape punishment.

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**ST JOHN BOSCO'S**  
**Catholic Parish**  
**29 Muriel St, Niddrie**



**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**29 September 2024**

**First Reading** Numbers 11:25-29

**A reading from the book of Numbers**

*Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9

**(R.) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

3. So in them your servant finds instructions;  
great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)

4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.  
Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin. (R.)

**Second Reading** James 5:1-6

**A reading from the letter of St James**

*Your wealth is rotting.*

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** See John 17:17

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your word, O Lord, is truth:  
make us holy in the truth.  
Alleluia!**