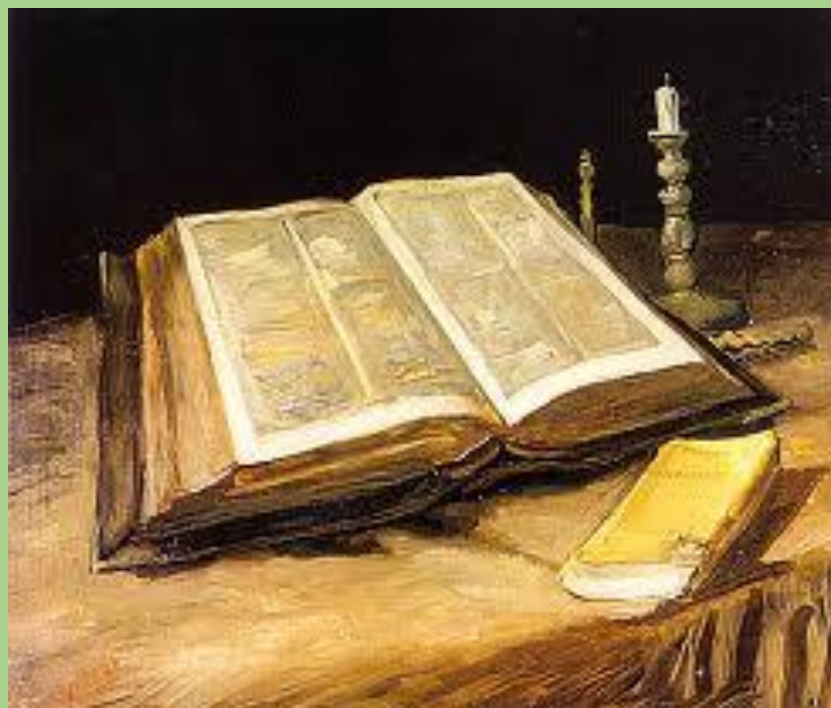


Getting Ready for Sunday!



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus steps out in ministry in places untrod by other ministers!

God surprises us all the time through unconditional love, through guidance through experiences that seem impossible, through provision of strength that seems and is more than human!

Jesus reaches out to the unclean, those rejected by society, those who are on the margins of society and into our own weakest and often hidden spots.

Jesus brings out what is wrong or difficult so that it may be cleaned up, polished and have a purpose.

God is One who constantly surprises us!

Mark 1:21-28



The Man with an Unclean Spirit

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.



In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted,

'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.'

Commentary

**A person who was not recognised as good living recognised Jesus!
Everyone (no matter who they are or what they have done) has the opportunity to come close to God, if they make that choice!**



But Jesus said sharply,

Be silent, and come out of him!



Commentary

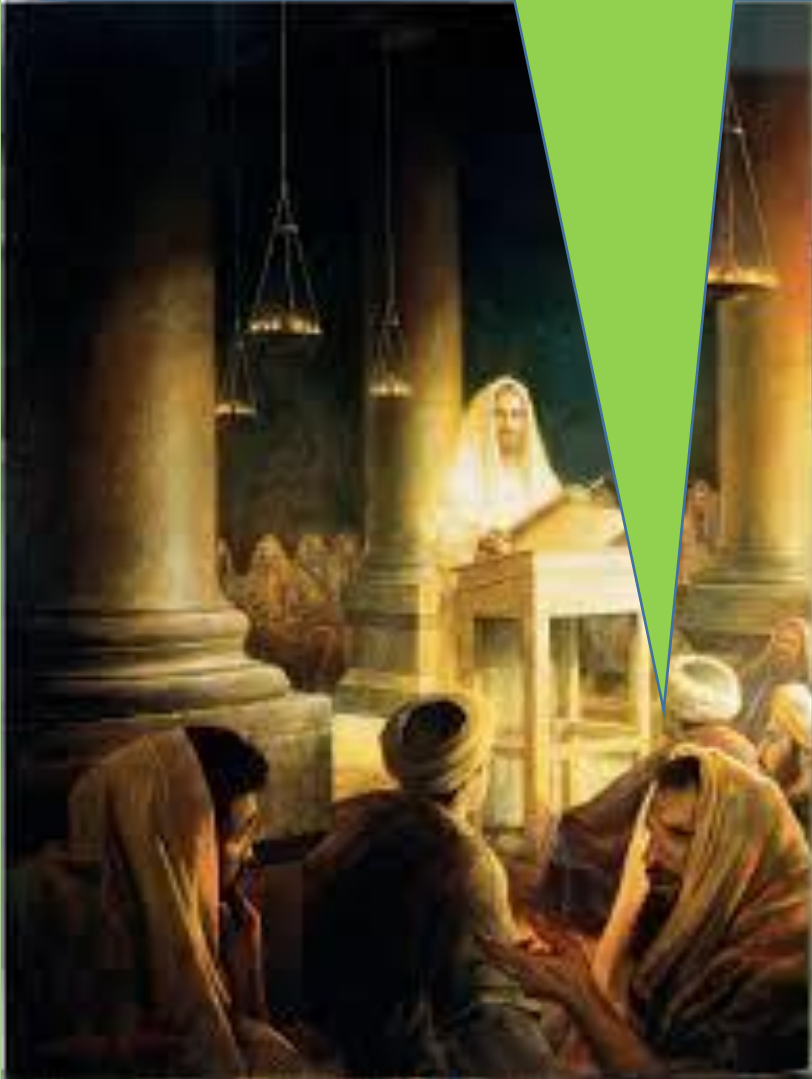
We are not on our own with our troubles and concerns!

Jesus invites us to change and helps us to do so – if we ask Him!

And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him.

The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘

Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.



Commentary

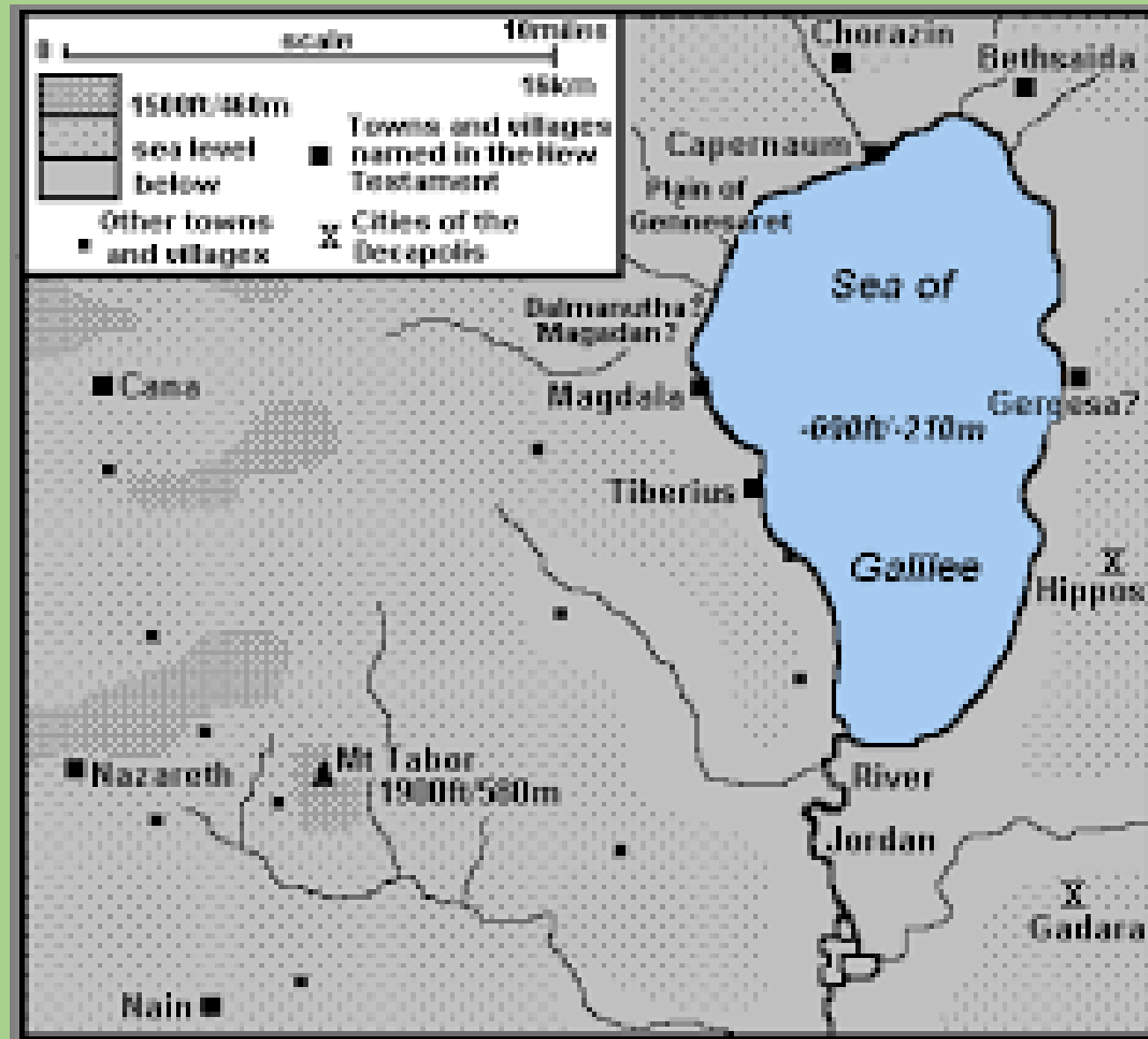
The leaders in the synagogue were surprised that Jesus had the same message for the poor, the troubled, those who sometimes did wrong....

Reflection

Would you allow yourself to be surprised and consider what message Jesus has for you today?

What burden is He trying to lift from your shoulders?

And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.



As much as you want
to plan your life, it has
a way of surprising you
with unexpected
things that will make you
happier than you
originally planned.

That's what you call
GOD'S WILL.

*God doesn't call the
equipped, He equips
the called.*

Bible Search

Read **Mark 1:14-20** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



**Look at the people you meet today with fresh eyes!
Allow yourself to see them how Jesus sees them.**

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:14-20

1 'The time is fulfilled' – this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, 'the time was fulfilled'.

2 'Repent and believe the good news'. Jesus called for a change of heart, as a response to the gospel message. A new level of faith in yourself leads to a new way of seeing yourself. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of who we are can lead us to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when 'good news' led you to a change of heart.

3 The Spirit of God who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of GOOD NEWS. In the everyday events of our own lives we can see the grace of God at work. When have you had what you would consider a 'call experience' that led you to a different style of life? Who was the 'Jesus person' through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a 'Jesus person' in this way?

John Byrne OSA

(Intercom-A Pastoral and Liturgical Resource-December/January 2014)

Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to see God
in all things, people and
places .**

**Ask God to guide you open your
eyes to see God in new places today.**

