

“Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Mark 1:23-24 NLT

lectio // Mark 1:21-28

“Let’s get to work,” he must have told his disciples. He goes in the synagogue and begins teaching. The guys (it’s all guys) notice he teaches with authority and one guy recognizes that authority, but he’s not himself that day - he’s POSSESSED! Even in the church? Well, the synagogue really wasn’t the “church” and they did not do anything that we would recognize as churchy - except some teaching. But, heck ya - EVEN in the church! Scripture does not allow me to extrapolate here, but I’m going to anyways. How many times had demon dude been there? Was he a regular? A member? An usher/greeter? Ok, just kidding. He may have just wandered in OR may have been listening to the religious leaders pontificating for months on the nuances of their navels! Even the regulars asked an odd question? What kind of new fan-dangled teaching is this? It - “IT” has power over demons? Like the teaching itself was the source? When Jesus speaks, it is the creator of all things speaking - from the Father, through the Holy Spirit. That’s the source! Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, we’re talking the life-giving, fear-shredding power that not only created the world, but resurrected Jesus from the dead. Of course a demon would recognize that, it’s a sad fact that oftentimes humans DON’T!

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Wow, just wow. As I understand it, we’ve got like millions of Christ followers, (or the new phrase, “Apprentices of Jesus”) running around with that kind of authority and power just idling in a world where there is SO MUCH pain, addiction, depression and soul-slavery around us. How can I BE a life and LIVE a life so aware and prepared to deliver that kind of freedom in my city, in my neighborhood?

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root