

## Homily - January, 2012

Only twice in the book of Deuteronomy is the title Prophet used. And Moses is seen there as the prophet par excelencé. Just as he received the law from God's voice to promulgate it to the community.

To St. Paul, the Lord's second coming would be soon. He wants Christians to be worry free and responsibility free. To the Corinthians today, he speaks and we see this concern in the quality of commitment over the commitment itself.

It seemed in Biblical Gospel times, there were unclean spirits affecting a lot of people. It happened in synagogues as we heard today. This was Jesus's earliest act: to dismiss the evil spirit rather than the person. Because of this, people respected Jesus' authority and acclaimed Him.

Unclean spirits abound still, even in churches. People become so comfortable with sin, they see no advantage for them to confess or need to be reconciled month after month. Feeling they have done nothing wrong, there is nothing to confess. But ask any bartender, hairdresser or store clerk - they have heard all the complaints. Unlike the church confessors, they cannot absolve, but only commiserate.

We even have newspapers whose purpose is to sell advertisements, but the features all of us enjoy are the anonymous write-ins. One courageous soul amid 60 write-ins suggested: "Why are you so critical of everything? Don't you have a life to live? Try to get along with one another." That was the closest thing to the biblical reference where Jesus asks, "If you cannot reconcile with one another, take 2 or 3 witnesses with you and go to the Magistrate and seek the truth." We say, "No!" to His way. "I want to be published! After all, if it's published, it must be true!" Hogwash! There are enough half-truth lies to choke a horse in print.

But let's get back to the way Jesus handled the spirits. He evicted them. That is the evil in the person - not the person.

Would that we were able to admit in our own lives the need for His healing!! Trusting the church to send us ministers to heal us: not to use them for fodder for our half-truths.

Then one person at a time and one family at a time, might see how healing reconciles a family. Then: how families reconcile a town. When towns and cities are working on healing rather than harassing then, with God's help, we can eradicate: the evils of abortion, same-sex unions, pedophilia & child abuse practices, street crimes, drug related crimes, rape, Genocides, mutilations & tortures.

Only with God's help and our focus on the evil spirit -  
shouting "Get out of here," will God's work be done through us.  
Father Soprano