



Wednesday Prayer

4th Sunday after Epiphany – Given ears & eyes to hear and see

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:21-22

The Gospel of Mark starts with the Baptism of Jesus and moves quickly into calling the disciples and starting his ministry. Immediately after calling his first disciples, he goes to Capernaum and begins teaching. As soon as he starts teaching, his disciples and the others in the synagogue hear that his teaching is different. Jesus speaks with authority, and Jesus sees the world differently. God has sent God's Son, the Messiah, to hear the cries of the people and speak words of freedom, love and comfort to them. We are called as Jesus' brothers and sisters to also hear the cries of the people and speak God's word in the world.

Dorothee Solle, in her book, *The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance*, says "God calls upon the soul to give away its own ears and eyes and to let itself be given those of God. Only they who hear with other ears can speak with the mouth of God... See what God sees! Hear what God hears! Laugh where God laughs! Cry where God cries!" When we give away our own ears and eyes, we hear and see what God hears and sees, and speak God's word in the world with authority, as Christ did. When we hear the cries of the exploited and see the pain they are in, we're called to speak out with authority to work for freedom, all while loving and comforting them on their journey. When we hear and see those who are vulnerable to exploitation, we can speak God's words of hope and comfort to lessen the chance that they will fall prey to those with false promises who only want to use them.

When we use God's senses, we do far more than "fix things" for people in need. We can boldly speak with God's authority and support a new way of living with hope. Our prayers become one with their prayers. When they are unable to pray, we pray for them as the called and gathered people of God.

God who loves all, you spoke your word and revealed the Good News through Jesus. Let us be given your ears and eyes to hear and see as you do so that we can become your incarnate presence, proclaiming your promises of hope to those who are exploited, vulnerable to exploitation, and to all in need. Amen

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