

The Anglican Maori Diocese of

# TE WAIPOUNAMU

Sunday 01 February 2015

Te Rātapu Tuawha i muri i te Whakaaturanga / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Epiphany

## JESUS OUR TEACHER



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JESUS

The Teacher Within  
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### SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues. He preached the good news of the kingdom. And he healed every illness and sickness. (Matthew 9:35)

### COLLECT OF THE DAY – *Let us pray:*

Jesus, you spoke with passion, you acted without fear, and we remember. Help us when we have to speak out, to speak the truth and without malice to speak. Hear this prayer for your name's sake. **Amen.**



## Captured Fire

The Sunday Homilies



## Jesus Our Teacher

The Old Testament passage for today we have read from Deuteronomy 18 tells us that God would give the people his specially sent messengers, or prophets, to teach them his will just as Moses had done. Jesus Christ was one of the specially sent messengers or prophets that God raised up as promised here.

Jesus Christ was the greatest prophet, the perfect messenger of God, whose life and ministry gave full meaning to the promise given in this passage.

In due course, Jesus appeared on the scene at Capernaum and preached in the local meeting place as given in the gospel passage for today from Mark 1. People noticed that his teaching was very much different from that of the teachers of the law. Instead of discussing about small points of the law he taught the truth of God plainly. All who heard had no doubt that this was God's message taught with God's authority. Jesus taught God's message with God's authority because he carried out his calling as described in verse 18 of the Old Testament passage from Deuteronomy 18 and told the people everything God commanded him to say which God had put in his mouth to say. So he taught " ... *like one who had authority*" (Mark 1:22) because he was absolutely certain of the truth of what he said because it came from God.

As Jesus teaches, he is interrupted by a man controlled by an evil spirit. The evil spirit uses the man's vocal cords, causing him to scream. The evil spirit then publicly says that he knows just who Jesus is—that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God who is of the same nature as God and hence is God. In response, Jesus firmly tells the evil spirit to be quiet and come out of the man and the evil spirit comes out of him with a scream. That Jesus showed the authority and power to send evil spirits out of people itself identified him as the Messiah, the Son of God who was God, which follows that the message that he taught truly came from God.

Since the message that Jesus taught truly came from God, it was a message regarding how we should behave which was taught to us out of love for us as the nature of God is to love. In the epistle passage for today from 1 Corinthians 8, the Christians at Corinth had said that they had knowledge about the way to behave. But knowledge is not enough. It is never perfect and can lead to pride. Christians must be guided in their teaching by love, not just by knowledge. Love thinks about the needs of other people and makes their faith stronger. Only in this way can they grow to full maturity (1Cor. 8:1-2).

So Jesus our teacher spoke the words of God on behalf of God to us out of love for us. He spoke of how we should live in this world in relation to God, and how this relates to such weighty matters as life and death, heaven and hell, life, death and eternity. He spoke words of eternal value which could bring about life change in us and gain us eternal life. When we deliver kauhau, do we likewise speak the words of God on behalf of God to the people out of love for them and address these same matters so that there is spiritual light or truth in our services?

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.



## The Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*A reading from Deuteronomy chapter 18 beginning at verse 15.*

<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me. He will be one of your own people. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> At Mount Horeb you asked the LORD your God for a prophet. You asked him on the day you gathered together. You said, “We don’t want to hear the voice of the LORD our God. We don’t want to see this great fire anymore. If we do, we’ll die.”

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me, “What they are saying is good. <sup>18</sup> *I will raise up for them a prophet like you. He will be one of their own people. I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him to say.* <sup>19</sup> The prophet will speak in my name. But someone might not listen to what I say through the prophet. I will hold that person responsible for not listening. <sup>20</sup> But suppose a prophet dares to speak in my name something I have not commanded. Or he speaks in the name of other gods. Then that prophet must be put to death.”

*Let us all say together in te reo Māori the reading below from Deuteronomy chapter 18 beginning at verse 15. Kia pānui tātou.*

<sup>15</sup> Ma Ihowa, ma tou Atua, e whakaara ake he poropiti mou i roto i a koe, no ou teina, he rite mai ki ahau; ko ia ta koutou e whakarongo ai.

<sup>16</sup> Hei whakarite mo nga mea katoa i inoi ai koe ki a Ihowa, ki tou Atua, i Horepa i te ra o te huihuinga, i mea ai, kaua ahau e rongo atu ano i te reo o Ihowa, o toku Atua, kaua hoki ahau e titiro ano ki tenei ahi nui, kei mate ahau.

<sup>17</sup> Na ka mea a Ihowa ki ahau, he pai ta ratou korero i korero na.

<sup>18</sup> Maku e whakaara ake he poropiti mo ratou i roto i o ratou teina, rite tahi ki a koe, a ka hoatu e ahau aku kupu ki tona waha; mana e korero ki a ratou nga mea katoa e korero ai ahau ki a ia.

<sup>19</sup> Na ko te tangata e kore e whakarongo ki aku kupu, e korero ai ia i runga i toku ingoa, maku e rapu he utu i a ia.

<sup>20</sup> Tena ko te poropiti e poka noa te korero i runga i toku ingoa, i tetahi kupu kihai nei i whakahaua atu e ahau kia korerotia, e korero ranei i runga i te ingoa o nga atua ke, ina, ka mate taua poropiti.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.*



## The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*A reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 8 beginning at verse 1.*

### Food Sacrificed to Statues of Gods

<sup>1</sup> Now I want to deal with food sacrificed to statues of gods. We know that “We all have knowledge.” *But knowledge makes people proud, while love builds them up.* <sup>2</sup> *Those who think they know something still don’t know as they should.*

<sup>3</sup> But whoever loves God is known by God.

<sup>4</sup> So then, here is what I say about eating food sacrificed to statues of gods. We know that “a god made by human hands is really nothing at all in the world.” We know that “there is only one God.” <sup>5</sup> There may be so-called gods either in heaven or on earth. In fact, there are many “gods” and many “lords.” <sup>6</sup> But for us there is only one God. He is the Father. All things came from him, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord. He is Jesus Christ. All things came because of him, and we live because of him.

<sup>7</sup> But not everyone knows this. Some people still think that statues of gods are real gods. They might eat food sacrificed to statues of gods. When they do, they think of it as food sacrificed to real gods. And because those people have a weak sense of what is right and wrong, they feel guilty. <sup>8</sup> But food doesn’t bring us close to God. We are no worse if we don’t eat. We are no better if we do eat.

<sup>9</sup> But be careful how you use your rights. Be sure you don’t cause someone weaker than you to fall into sin. <sup>10</sup> Suppose you, with all your knowledge, are eating in a temple of one of those gods. And suppose someone who has a weak sense of what is right and wrong sees you. Won’t that person become bold and eat what is sacrificed to statues of gods? <sup>11</sup> If so, then your knowledge destroys that weak brother or sister for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup> Suppose you sin against them in this way. Then you harm their weak sense of what is right and wrong. By doing this, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> So suppose what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin. Then what should I do? I will never eat meat again. In that way, I will not cause them to fall.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.*

## The Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark chapter 1 beginning at verse 21.  
Praise and Glory to God.*

### Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and those with him went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue. There he began to teach. <sup>22</sup> *The people were amazed at his teaching. That’s because he taught them like one who had authority. He did not talk like the teachers of the law.* <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue cried out. He was controlled by an evil spirit. He said, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus firmly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man wildly. Then it came out of him with a scream.

<sup>27</sup> All the people were amazed. So they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching! And with so much authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about Jesus spread quickly all over Galilee.

*This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.*