MEDITATION 31

Mark 3: 28-30

Jesus said: [28] "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, [29] but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"— [30] for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Imagine you cut yourself off from air or water or food… How long do you think you'd survive?... From air? Mere minutes… From water? Maybe days… From food? Maybe a few weeks… Now imagine "blaspheming against the Holy Spirit" as equivalent to cutting yourself off the source of inner, spiritual air, water or food. How long can you last? Certainly not forever (eternally).

The Holy Spirit is the energy and substance of love. Jesus is the gateway, the pipeline, the path to this Spirit who is, which is, genuine love… Imagine cutting yourself off of such love, such life. How do you live?... And how can you live in the eternal kingdom of God if all relations within this kingdom can only flow out of the oxygen and nourishment that is love?...

This is how we may understand these difficult words of Jesus. If the religious authorities and anyone else who is influenced by their poison of hate, mistrust and contempt try to cut down Jesus, they are also cutting down the source of spiritual life which is love. They refuse the pathway to restoration which is forgiveness. They accuse Jesus of having an "unclean spirit", meaning that rather than divine love as his healing source, it is demonic energy that fuels his healing ability, and because the energy is demonic, it also destroys souls. If these authorities cannot open their hearts to divine love in Jesus and see the Holy Spirit working through him, how may they find true life in a very dark time?... They are cutting themselves off from the Spirit, the source of life.

So what about us here today? How may we access this strange ancient passage of scripture in a way that speaks to us? Here are some questions to ponder:

How may we discern what is healthy for us from what is unhealthy? Whether we are speaking about our bodies, our minds or our spirits, we need to discern what is good for us and what is bad.

In addition, we need to find the courage, the resolve and the motivation to choose the healthy and the good and reject the unhealthy and the bad. Can we do this?

We may be talking about a habit, even an addiction. But we may also be talking about a relationship. We need the healing power of Jesus in us, which is Holy Spirit, in order to see more clearly and then choose a path that will be challenging in many cases. We need support.

We need continuing encouragement and inspiration. We need prayer. Otherwise, we are cut off from life and liberation.

Jesus is the source of life… His love which is also his Spirit, is the only pathway to the kind of healing that leads us ever closer to wholeness. But his Spirit is manifest through the various people and places of support we may find. This also means we need to be clear about what and who we need to stay away from. That's not easy, especially if our environment and the person or persons in it require change. We may lose a way of life. We may lose family & friends. People may get upset with us or people may try to convince us it's not that bad…

We give thanks for all the love and support that is genuine in our lives, healthy and good. But we also continue to need to develop vigilance, clarity and groundedness in our values and our relationships. Where is the Holy Spirit calling us and seeking to feed us? And where is the Holy Spirit being cut off in our lives? We need the forgiveness of God. We need the gateway to love's constant restoration opened up as wide as possible for us to breath, drink and eat continually.

Where are your sources of spiritual life? Where and how may you be in danger of cutting off your supply of the Spirit?

PRAYER: Give us courage, O God… Courage to see truly and courage to make good choices even as they may upset some people and require change for us…

Help us discern what are healthy sources of life from what are sources and influences that cut us off from your Spirit seeking to grow in us…

May we come to see that only through your Spirit who is the energy of genuine love is abundant life truly possible for us.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.