

Mark 3: 7-12

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the lake, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; ⁸hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; ¹⁰for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. ¹¹Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, 'You are the Son of God!' ¹²But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

Commentary: Jesus is being mobbed wherever he goes. People have heard about his miraculous powers of healing. Everyone wants to touch him. Even 'unclean spirits' confess him to be Son of God and recognize his authority. But Jesus orders them to be quiet. Again we encounter Jesus not wanting everyone to know his divine origin. He wants to disassociate himself from popular conceptions and expectations of divine sonship and messiahship. He wants people to be open to him in a new and fresh way.

Have we ever imagined that healing of body, mind or spirit is also about healing old and maybe tired images of God we may be carrying? Who is this God to whom we pray and before whom we exist (if such a God is a vivid reality for us at all)? In this season of Covid-19, this season of re-evaluation of values, priorities, concerns, commitments, relationships and so forth... what an opportunity to think and feel our way to connection with a reality we may choose to name 'God' but may also choose to rethink in order to refeel.

Questions: Is your image of God too old and tired? Are you bound too heavily on traditional if not old and worn-out images of Christ? Are you prepared to approach God and Christ in a new and fresh way?

Prayer: Lord God, liberate me from my pre-conceptions and presuppositions so that I can approach you and experience you in a new way. Clear my mind and open my heart so that I can hear what you have to tell me now, in this strange and fearful season of my life and our collective life.
Amen.