

## Thursday, Third Week of Lent

*Luke 11:14-23*

Two people can witness to one event and, yet, interpret it in very different ways.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus casts out the devil that held one man dumb and he gives speech to this man who had been dumb. Some of the people who witnessed this event were amazed. They recognized the presence of what Jesus calls '*the finger of God*'. But others who witnessed this same healing came up with a very different response altogether. They concluded that the power at work in the ministry of Jesus was driven by the power of the devil. They saw the hand of Satan rather than '*the finger of God*.' This leads us to ask ourselves a number of questions:

How sensitive are we to the presence of God and to the working of the Lord?

Are we the kind of people who are disposed to think well of goodness when it is put before us or are we the kind of people disposed to invent slanderous stories? Do we think ill of others more readily than we credit them with good? Whom do I identify with in the crowd which witnesses Jesus' miracle? With those who watch in amazed belief or with those who reject him? Do I identify with those who hedge their bets, looking for further signs? Jesus, for certain, forces us off the middle ground. We cannot be neutral: we are either with him or against him. Where are we? Lord, give me the grace to see the best in others, as I'd wish them to see the best in me.