

**Meditation 2014-03-23**  
**Third Sunday Of Lent**  
**Meditation Theme: “Am I Open To Repossession?”**

**Place yourself** in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

**A**T that time Jesus was casting out a devil, and the same was dumb: and when He had cast out the devil, the dumb spoke: and the multitudes were in admiration at it: But some of them said: He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. And others tempting, asked of Him a sign from heaven. But He seeing their thoughts, said to them: Every kingdom divided against itself, shall be brought to desolation, and house upon house shall fall. And if Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? Because you say, that through Beelzebub I cast out devils. Now if I cast out devils by Beelzebub; by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I by the finger of God cast out devils; doubtless the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his court, those things are in peace which he possesseth. But if a stronger than he come upon him, and overcome him; he will take away all his armour wherein he trusted, and will distribute his spoils. He that is not with Me, is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me, scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through places without water, seeking rest; and not finding, he saith: I will return into my house whence I came out. And when he is come, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there. And the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it.

**Point 1.** – Jesus performs one of His many miracles before a crowd of witnesses. He assures the crowd that He does not do this by the power of the evil.

**Point 2.** – Jesus relates a parable about the man who is possessed and the devil has been cast out. The demon does not find somewhere else to go, so he returns to the soul he just left.

**Point 3.** – Jesus tells the believing woman to pay attention not to His personality, but rather to what she knew God wanted.

**Meditation:** Jesus teaches us about cleaning the house of evil and then leaving the door open so it can return. The demon is driven out, yet returns to find that he is almost welcomed again.

Do I confess my sins, only to fall again? Do I cleanse my soul and then leave the door open to temptation? If I sin, and confess, and then sin again, is there something wrong with the

confession process, or with me? Do I leave the door open? How can I close it so that it stays closed? Does the door have a lock? Does it come with a lock? Or do I have to put a lock on it? What kind of locks are available? Are some better than others? If I have to “take steps,” what steps should I take?

When I fall, is it always the same sin? Almost always? Of the situations in which I sin, what things are similar? What are different? Do I habitually go to the same locations? Do I not take care? If I always seem to fall in a given circumstance, do I try to avoid that circumstance? Do I treat the situation as unlikely because I think “I will not fall this time?” If I skate on thin ice, and frequently fall through, is that the fault of the ice, or is it my fault? Do I convince myself that I can skate on thin ice ‘this time’ without falling? How like “locking the door” is that?

God has told us that it is important to do His will, to hear His word, in which He makes His will known, and to keep it. God has told me to avoid sin. Do I? God wills that I become holy. Am I? Am I trying? As hard as necessary? As hard as possible? I am under His command to avoid the occasions of sin. Do I? Do I make the effort to recognize them? Do I guard against them, or do I fool myself into thinking that I can overcome them? Do I leave the door open?

**Colloquy:** Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

**Hold the Gain:** Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.