

“Prophet, Priest & King”

First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Dave Carlson
January 28, 2018

Old Testament lesson: Psalm 111

New Testament lesson: Mark 1:21-28

I would never suggest for a minute that the children of this church act like little demons – never! – and yet you get a group of them together during LOGOS – for weekly children’s and youth night – and..., well you can imagine. They’re just a little hyper.

That’s why I’m so impressed when they’re able to quiet down for supper after Activity Time, and even at the end when they regroup after Bible Study. Of course, they don’t just quite down magically. Not exactly.

They quiet down after Bonnie leads them in a prayer for dinner or a song to end the evening. Actually, it does seem a little magical, but in reality it’s spiritual. The prayers and songs for the children are designed to cast out their hyper spirits, if you will, and instill in them a peaceful, reverent Spirit.

Looking at today’s New Testament lesson, I image the people of Capernaum we’re equally surprised – and more so – when Jesus cast out the unclean spirit from the man convulsing and crying out with a loud voice in the synagogue.

Interestingly, Bonnie uses the same method in quieting the children. She uses the word of God – in prayer and song, and the children are transformed into the little angels they are, calm and quiet for a moment or two.

The word of God has tremendous power, a power that we can apply in our lives. We see this when Jesus says, “Be silent,” and the unclean spirit comes out of the man.

How do we tap into the power of God’s word to help us with our rebellious spirit, so we can resist the evils of temptation and the dangers of following misguided ways?

Through Jesus Christ. There are three offices or positions that Christ holds that give us access to the power of God’s word. I want to go over them briefly, and then we’ll see how we can use these Christly offices to tap into the power of God to change our lives for the better.

The three offices of Jesus Christ are prophet, priest and king. In the Book of Revelation (1:5), Christ is called “the faithful witness” (as Prophet); “the firstborn of the dead” (as Priest); and “the ruler of kings on earth” (as King).