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Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Year. Wednesday 14th January. Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10,19-20; Psalm: 39; Gospel: Mark 1:29-39.

In the Gospel Jesus confronts unclean spirits or devils. These were seen as powers who could control both nature and human beings. They were thought to have power because they knew our frailty and brokenness. They attempt to control even Jesus by claiming that they know him. His power is revealed in his ability to silence them which broke their power. Samuel discovers who he is by listening to the Lord as he stands over him in love. The identity of Jesus as fully human and fully divine is the source of his authority. His need to be alone with his Father in prayer underlines that identity but also reveals his mission of setting the world free from its brokenness. To do this he needed to be fully human, identifying with all our weakness yet able to overcome them. Discovering and living out our identity is the same path for us. We are to accept fully our humanity and yet know that we are truly children of the Father. Like Samuel we have to say, 'speak, Lord, we are listening.'