**A new teaching with authority**

SUNDAY JANUARY 31 (Mk 1, 21-28)

The teaching with authority is clothed with two truths. The first truth says that there are no other words that can add anything. The word heard is the only true, the only perfect, the only one that gives full light to the mind, the only one that fills the heart. There are no other words. One can go around heaven and earth to find other words, but they won’t be able to find any. That won’t happen either to us nor to others what has happened to Elisha, *“Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water, which divided, and both crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask for whatever I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." "You have asked something that is not easy," he replied. "Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. When Elisha saw it happen he cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariots and drivers!" But when he could no longer see him, Elisha gripped his own garment and tore it in two. Then he picked up Elijah's mantle which had fallen from him, and went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan.*

*Wielding the mantle which had fallen from Elijah, he struck the water in his turn and said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When Elisha struck the water it divided and he crossed over. The guild prophets in Jericho, who were on the other side, saw him and said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They went to meet him, bowing to the ground before him. "Among your servants are fifty brave men," they said. "Let them go in search of your master. Perhaps the spirit of the LORD has carried him away to some mountain or some valley." "Do not send them," he answered. However, they kept urging him, until he was embarrassed and said, "Send them." So they sent the fifty men, who searched for three days without finding him. When they returned to Elisha in Jericho, where he was staying, he said to them, "Did I not tell you not to go?” (2Kg 2,8-18).* These men lost three days, we often lose a life. Instead of listening to the Word spoken to us by the Lord, we waste a life because we do not believe in what has been announced and asked of us. Other words do not exist.

*Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.*

The second truth that must be highlighted is the obedience that every creature is called to give to the word. If there are no other words, obedience is the only answer that can be given to the word given to us with authority. All creatures, Angels, demons, every element of the universe, listen to the word of Jesus and give immediate obedience. The word spoken with authority is also command. The command is to be obeyed. Only man can disobey, rebel, refuse to listen. But with what consequences? Since the Word of Jesus is the only Word of truth, light, eternal life, blessing, grace, holiness, justice, peace, whoever does not obey his Word sets out on paths of death. In truth it is already in death. His refusal to obey ratifies this path which will certainly lead to eternal death. Looking for other words of life is just wasted time, vainly consumed energies. Eternal life is only in obedience to His Word. If there were other words, that of Jesus would not be a word spoken with authority. It would be a word and a teaching like all other words and teachings.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us believe in the Word of Jesus.