**For this purpose have I come!**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7 (Mk 1, 29-39)**

The true prophet of the living God must not only always say what the Lord has commanded him to say, he must say it to the men to whom God sends him. Amos must prophesy in Bethel and in Bethel he remains: *"To Amos, Amaziah said:" Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah! There earn your bread by prophesying, but never again prophesy in Bethel; for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple.* *“To Amos, Amaziah said: "Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah! There earn your bread by prophesying, but never again prophesy in Bethel; for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple." Amos answered Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets; I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel.” (Am 7,12-15). If Amos* prophesied in another place would be neither faithful nor obedient to the mission received. Jonah, on the other hand, must go to Nineveh and preach here. He cannot go to other places. He obeys if he goes to Nineveh: *“The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD'S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed," when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his nobles: "Neither man nor beast, neither cattle nor sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we shall not perish." When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.” (Jo 3,1-10).* Jonah obeys, against his will and a whole people is saved.

*On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.*

Jesus was sent to reveal to his people the great mystery of pity, of compassion, of the Lord’s mercy towards them. He cannot stop in one place to work wonders and miracles. Prodigies and miracles are only signs that must make Christ Jesus credible and attest that He comes from God. Miracles are of no use if the gift of the Word is missing. Jesus goes into prayer and from his Father, in the Holy Spirit, receives the command to leave Capernaum and go elsewhere. Its mission is to announce the mysteries of the kingdom of God to all the people and not just to a part of them. Obedience is immediate. Jesus immediately leaves Capernaum and goes to nearby villages to preach the mystery of the kingdom, crediting his Word with signs and wonders. So, it is right that we ask ourselves: Are we faithful to the Father’s will today? Do we live with pure and simple obedience what the Father wants us to do? Do we know that the triumph of the kingdom of God on earth is the fruit of our obedience? Do we allow ourselves to be conditioned by the requests that come from man who are not God’s will for us? Man must always be served by the will of God, never by the will of man.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us obedient to God’s will always.