

GOSPEL PEARLS

No beliefs in superstition

SCHEGGE DI VANGELO

01_09_2020



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Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. (Luke 4, 31-37)

Jesus's freeing of a man possessed by an evil spirit increases the amazement which Cafàrناو's inhabitants have for Him. But amazement and wonder, if they are not made fertile by the prayer of thanksgiving, do not turn into faith but may well degenerate into curiosity and, finally, become beliefs in superstition. So let us remember to thank Jesus for all the ordinary gifts He gives us daily and not just for the extraordinary ones.