

Tuesday of the Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 4,31-37): Jesus went down to Capernaum (...), in the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, «What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God». Then Jesus said to him sharply, «Be silent and leave this man!». The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm (...).

Evil: why does it exist if God is the Infinite Good?

EDITORIAL TEAM evangelii.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we are taken aback by the very idea of the existence of evil and those intelligent beings are able to behave so perversely. The times we live in are witnesses to this. So, if God is infinitely good, is it possible for him to have created Evil? If he did not create it where has it come from?

Christianity responds to this allegation saying that evil is the consequence of an abuse of freedom. Evil is not a creature or being in itself but by nature is “an absence of good”, a corrosion of the being. It is not a being but a denial. Evil is in some ways similar to a parasitic plant: it lives off others and in the end kills the person the same way as a parasitic plant when it takes over the host and kills it.

—Jesus from the most Holy Cross transforms evil into good. He has disarmed the Devil and in so doing has conquered all eternity.