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Liturgy of the Word Reflection

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When I was a very young sister, many years ago, I had a cerebral hemorrhage. My dad had gone out and my mom was in the hospital room with me. We heard this very loud clap of thunder and my mom said, "I hope dad is ok." When he returned, he told us that he had been walking across the parking lot praying that I would be ok. He said the sky was blue and the sun shining and out of nowhere was this thunder that he believed was God's answer to his prayer.

We might say for my dad, and for us who heard the story, the thunder was a manifestation of God's power and presence.

In this Gospel, the presence and power of God come through Jesus to heal the man who was mute. Opposition to Jesus was intensifying and his accusers couldn't accept the good news that God was at work in him. They accuse Jesus of casting out the demon by the power of Satan.

Jesus responds by saying that it is only through God's power that healing has occurred, and only through that power can the forces of evil be overcome. Jesus' authority over demons was authority from God, who desires people be free from evil and all that binds them. Those who do not recognize and accept the workings of God in Jesus are against him and those who do accept it are for him. Jesus will repeat this later when he says, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 11: 27-28)

Jesus went about doing good, doing the work of God. We are called to do the same and we can do that, not through our own power, but because the power of God is at work in us as it was in Jesus. The energy of healing, compassion and care that Jesus put into the world continues today. As Bishop Desmond Tutu reflects in *God Has a Dream*, "A good deed doesn't just evaporate and disappear. Its consequences saturate the universe and the goodness that happens somewhere, anywhere, helps in the transfiguration of the ugliness."

Like Jesus, you and I are to bring about the dream of God in the world by the power and presence of God within each of us. As we do that, we transform the ugliness of racism, discrimination in all forms, the destruction of the planet and its creatures, loneliness, sadness and all that binds people. The energy of those good deeds doesn't disappear but joins the energy of others in the transformation of the world. Or as Bishop Tutu also reminds us, "Do your little bit of good where you are; and it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelms the world." Where can you and I do a little bit of good today? Who needs our "little bit?"