

**Deacon Tony's Homily  
for the  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time**

**Question: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?**

Answer: Pharaoh's daughter -- she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little profit. (*Oops. That should read "prophet".*)

Moses was the prophet to the Israelites, but he was getting less and less cooperation. The people were weary from reviewing all the laws that Moses had gotten on Mt Sinai. He knew that he would not be with them in the promised land to remind them of commands that would always remind them of God's care for them. **"Let us not hear the voice of the Lord, our God..."**

Moses was a prophet, par excellence, who spoke for God to the people at that time. He was also the only one to see God, even though he only had a quick glance from behind God.

God promises to send His Son Jesus, to speak His words to the people, **with authority. He was the face of God the Father Almighty** and He would reach into people's hearts.

And the people noticed the difference of Our Lord's words as they were forgiven and made whole. Many commented on Jesus' ability to speak in a way that produced results of the heart.

Jesus passed this authority down to the Apostles and Bishops of today. Peter held the keys to the kingdom of God which unlocked the hearts that were invited into a relationship with Jesus.

This is the kingdom that we have been longing for, as we follow Christ. We are called to be Christ to others, as we work at winning souls for His kingdom. We long for a close relationship with Him who has freed millions from the power of the devil. Just as he did for the man with the unclean spirit.

Jesus showed his authority over the unclean spirit and offers that power to all who invoke His name. Just saying "JESUS" out loud will make unclean spirits flee. Repeating the Name of Jesus is a prayer of protection for all who have a relationship with Him.