

**Out of His Mind**      Second Week in Ordinary Time      Saturday, January 20, 2018      8:15 AM  
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27;      **Mk 3:20-21**      (St. Fabian, pope and martyr; St. Sebastian, martyr; BVM)      (So this could indicate that he is disturbed, or it could mean that he is talking in a way that is simply incomprehensible to most people.)

**“When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind.’”**

Or some say, “For they were told he is out of his mind.” But this phrase of course is very hard to pin down. **What is it they really are believing or thinking?** Ancient languages have small vocabularies, and words have lots of different meanings. This is the same word used when Jesus is astonished at the lack of faith or the unbelief or the disbelief of the people at Capernaum. It’s related to our word “ecstasy.” If you are ecstatic, in a way you are out of your mind. But it’s not necessarily a bad thing, but it could be.

**So this could indicate that he is disturbed**, as he was disturbed at Capernaum by the unbelief of people; it could mean that. **Or it could mean that he is talking in a way that is simply incomprehensible to most people**, which is very likely. Both are likely; both are likely that first of all he was saying things that people couldn’t grasp at all, **that sounded crazy**, and that would be, for example, **“the kingdom of God is at hand.”** The kingdom of God, which Jewish faith awaited, sometimes patiently, sometimes not so patiently, but what Jewish faith was awaiting is really here already, right now. Well that’s crazy because **what they thought the kingdom of God would be would come in some powerful triumph of their nation over everyone else.** That’s how they thought of the kingdom of God. **And now Jesus says, well, the kingdom of God is here, right now, at hand. this minute. “This is the time of fulfillment.”** And his relatives **said well he has lost his mind.** How could people talk that way?

Of course **they didn’t believe**, just like the people at Capernaum, they didn’t believe. This is the key. And **belief has to do with commitment.** Too often in our history **belief has been reduced to some sort of mental assent.** We believe in the Bible, or we believe in the creed or we believe in the catechism. That means we believe what it says is true. **That is not what belief means in the gospels.** It’s commitment to God’s kingdom, coming now, coming here, **God’s will being done on earth now in this place. That’s faith and anything less doesn’t quite make it.** Now does that sound crazy?