



Daily Reflections

September 6, 2017

Scripture

Luke 4: 38-44

After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her.

He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her.

She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them.

And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God."

But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place.

The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them.

But he said to them, "To the other towns also

I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Our Scripture Reflection

What did Jesus mean when He said, "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God"? The Kingdom of God is the power and presence of God in the world. It meant that what man sees as important and of value was being

challenged and even overturned by the way of God. For those who are open to it, the Kingdom of God is a cause for excitement and joy. But for those who are entrenched in the status quo, the Kingdom of God is worrisome and threatening.

Food for your Journey

In Jesus Christ his followers have witnessed the kingdom of God breaking in on earth. They have seen Satan crushed and the powers of the world, sin and death broken. The kingdom of God is still exposed to suffering and strife. The little flock has a share in that tribulation. They stand under the sovereignty of God in the new righteousness, but in the midst of persecution. God grant that the kingdom of Jesus Christ may grow in his church on earth, God hasten the end of the kingdoms of this world, and establish his own kingdom in power and glory!

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (Macmillan, 1966), 184-85.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Transform my mind and heart with the power of Your Grace, so that I may rise above the ways of this world and focus on Your way. Amen.