



# Daily Reflections

**January 19, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 3:7-12**

Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples.

A large number of people followed from Galilee and from Judea.

Hearing what he was doing,

a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem,

from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan,

and from the neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon.

He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him.

He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him.

And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, "You are the Son of God."

He warned them sternly not to make him known.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Jesus got into a boat so that the crowd of people "would not crush Him." What a sight that must have been. In our own day, there are so many people who are longing for something greater than what this world can give. As disciples of The Lord, it is our calling to bring Jesus to them, to make His Presence visible. Are you up for the mission?

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## **Food for your Journey**

A Dutch missionary and Carmelite priest in Brazil, Carlos Mesters, distinguishes between two strategies for helping people: the stork and the midwife. The stork "presents the child to the parents - as if the child came from outside the parents, as if there is no need for gestation and painful birth. The midwife helps in the painful birthing of the child who has been gestating in the mother's womb, and the experienced and skilled midwife knows when to intervene in the birth and when, in the best of circumstances, to stand back and let the birthing occur with little intervention." It is so simple to see that we must function as midwives, assisting people in bringing forth healing in their lives, "stirring up the gift of God" that is within them (2 Tim. 6: 1). It is no simple matter to function this way. It is much easier to be a stork.

*--Defenseless Flower: A New Reading of the Bible (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989), 133.*

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Make me an instrument of Your love and peace in this world. Through my words and actions, may people experience Your Presence. Amen.

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