

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

January 13, 2016

Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue

Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.

They immediately told him about her.

He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,

they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

The whole town was gathered at the door.

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,

and he drove out many demons,

not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn,

he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.

Simon and those who were with him pursued him

and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages

that I may preach there also.

For this purpose have I come."

So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons

throughout the whole of Galilee.

Our Scripture Reflection

"When it was evening, after sunset....the whole town was gathered at the door." Can you imagine that chaotic scene? One of the unique features of Mark's Gospel is the picture he paints of a very active and busy Lord from the beginning of the Gospel. And how does Jesus deal with all of His work?" He went off to a deserted place to pray." When your life seems almost out of control, do you take the time to stop and pray? If Jesus did it, why don't you do it? You may be surprised at how prayer changes everything.

Food for your Journey

The book, *Coffee Break With God* (no author), reports that an informal survey revealed that most people generally pray two types of prayer.

First, there is the SOS prayer. It's the "Save Our Souls" prayer, meaning, "Oh God, save us now."

Then there is the SOP prayer, "Solve Our Problems."

We want God to do it all for us - to give us carefree lives free from need, struggle, trials and temptations.

This is probably not how Jesus prayed, but it is usually the way we pray.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, during those times when it seems difficult to think or catch my breath, give me the wisdom to pause, remember how much I love You and know that I am not the Lone Ranger, that You are always with me as You promised. Amen.