

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (v3)

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak & power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing & wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as [Jesus & the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon & Andrew, with James & John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, & they told him about her at once. ³¹He came & took her by the hand & lifted her up. Then the fever left her, & she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, & cast out many demons; & he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up & went out to a deserted place, & there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon & his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues & casting out demons.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare St. Mark's account with Sts. Matthew's & Luke's. What is the same? Different? Look at the stories immediately before & after, too. How do these details add to your understanding of the story? *See Matthew 8:14-15; Luke 4:38-39*
2. What do we learn from Jesus about prayer as ministry (v35). If we fail to take time for deliberate, purposeful prayer, what do we miss out on? *See Mark 6:46; Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 5:16, 6:12, 11:2-4; Small Catechism: Lord's Prayer; SC available <bookofconcord.org>*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. It's said that believers pray for the Lord to grasp their hands & lift them up, like St. Simon Peter's mother-in-law. Name three times he has this for you. How did you serve afterward each time (v31)? Now name three ways you are waiting for him to do so right now. What service are doing right now? What service do you imagine awaits you?
4. Notice how Jesus heals folks personally & individually (vv23, 31-34). What makes you think he's too busy for you? What does he desire for you & your burdens? What burdens are you withholding from him? *See Mark 8:34, 9:35, 10:43-45; Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:16; Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus had a good thing going in friendly Capernaum yet he moved on to keep the mission going. What can we learn from him about make sure a particular service serves the mission? How can you help your congregation be grateful for services that are ending & for ones beginning, always following Jesus for the sake of others? *See Acts 17:16-34, 19:8-10; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27, 13:11; Revelation 2:1-8*
6. Building on #2, how would you show someone else to pray? How would you show them to take time for it? How would you use the Lord's Prayer, the weekly worship Prayer of the Day (above), & the SC prayers (morning & evening; before & after meal) as a starting place? How would show them to pray for concerns not immediately or directly included in those formal prayers? Where could you find help in these matters?

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Series: Everyday Holiness

02.07.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Ins & Outs

Holiness travels between prayer & service

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: In the morning, while it was still very dark, [Jesus] got up & went out to a deserted place, & there he prayed... He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” (vv36, 38)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The servant of God took our infirmities & bore our diseases.
(*Matthew 8:17*)

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