



## Mark 1:29-39

**29** On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. **30** Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. **31** He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left

her, and she began to wait on them.

**32** That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. **33** The whole town came crowding round the door, **34** and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

**35** In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. **36** Simon and his companions set out in search of him, **37** and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' **38** He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' **39** And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Other readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7 Psalm 146 (147) I Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

As he begins the story of the ministry of Jesus, Mark sets before us a typical day's ministry of Jesus in Capernaum. It begins with the healing of the sick man in the synagogue, which we read last week. There are many others who also need Jesus' help. Jesus is still accompanied by the four disciples, the first ones to be called. The evangelist tells us how he heals the mother-in-law of Simon Peter. While our translation says that he 'helped her up', the Greek original is, literally, 'he raised her up'. This is the term used for the resurrection of Jesus. The miracles of Jesus are signs of the kingdom, and point to the resurrection. He has come to raise up to new life those who welcome his help.

At sunset, once the sabbath has ended, the townspeople begin to bring their sick to Jesus. Mark stresses the impact of Jesus' healing work by speaking of the gathering of the 'whole town'. There is another reference to those who are possessed, those who in the contemporary view were victims of Satan. Jesus commands them not to make him known. He is constantly concerned to avoid any misunderstanding of his mission and purpose. The evangelist brings the day to a conclusion by speaking of Jesus at prayer before the night ends.

*How do I experience the new life and healing Jesus brings?*

*Do I allow time for quiet prayer in my daily life?*

*Let us pray for those who struggle with debilitating sickness of body or spirit.*

*Let us pray for those who care for sick and elderly family members.*