



Feb. 7, 2021 Mk. 1: 29-39. Job 7:1-4

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

In this gospel we will find ourselves plunged into one dramatic scene after the next. No time to catch our breaths. Once people see how the power of God's love can flow freely through Jesus they press in ever closer and with more insistence. This alerts the negative powers that try to nip this in the bud, only to have Jesus stifle their efforts. It is the age old phenomena of evil recognizing good and wanting to take control. This sends Jesus off into prayer. Now he has his mission clearly in view. Be God's love in the world and reveal that this love is stronger even than death. Now is not the time to build a base, it is the time to proclaim.

Mk. 1:29-39 29 As soon as they left the **synagogue**, they went with **James** and **John** to the home of **Simon** and **Andrew**. 30 **Simon's mother-in-law** was in bed with a **fever**, and they told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and **helped** her up. The **fever** left her and she began to **wait** on them. 32 That **evening** after **sunset** the people brought to Jesus all the **sick** and **demon-possessed**. 33 The **whole town** gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus **healed** many who had various **diseases**. He also **drove** out many **demons**, but he would not let the **demons** speak because they **knew** who he was. 35 Very early in the **morning**, while it was still **dark**, Jesus got up, **left** the house and **went** off to a **solitary place**, where he **prayed**. 36 Simon and his companions **went** to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they **exclaimed**: "**Everyone is looking** for you!" 38 Jesus replied, "Let us go **somewhere else**--to the nearby villages--so I can **preach** there also. That is **why I have come**." 39 So he **traveled** throughout Galilee, **preaching** in their **synagogues** and **driving out demons**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: After his night of prayer Jesus now knows what he is to do. How does time in prayer help you do the same?

PRAYER: Jesus, you went off to pray after experiencing the power of God flowing through you as people were cured of illness and obsessions. It is as if you needed to go to your Father to understand what that was all about, and what you were to do next. You came out of that time of prayer with a clear idea of what your role was to be. It was to proclaim the Father's unconditional love. First of all, free me from anything that gets in the way of being a witness to that love. Then give me the insight and courage to be that love for others. Amen.