

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

February 4, 2024

Prayer is Connection to God

Based on Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

By Marianne Couture

Cured by his touch! In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear that after Jesus finished preaching and healing the man with the evil spirit in the synagogue, he and his apostles went to Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. "They immediately told Jesus about her."

Even this early in Jesus' ministry, the apostles could see the tender, caring, powerful love Jesus showed to others. They trusted he would take care of Peter's mother-in-law. Jesus went over to her, took her by the hand and helped her up from the bed. Immediately, her fever disappeared and she was well again. She returned Jesus' kindness by preparing and serving a delicious meal for him and his apostles.

This little miracle caused much excitement among the family and neighbors, but it was nothing compared to the news spreading about the countryside about the healing of the man in the synagogue. In the evening, "the whole town" gathered in the street in front of Peter's home hoping Jesus would cure those who were sick with all kinds of diseases. Although he was tired, Jesus felt sorry for them and healed them. He never turned away from those who needed him.

The people were astonished by Jesus' miracles, and they marveled at his teaching with such definite authority. They began thinking about what Jesus' power might do to help them against the oppressive authority of the political leaders. But the people would never quite understand that Jesus' main mission was to save them from sin. His preaching, teaching, and healing of the sick were to help people learn about the Kingdom of God and God's love for them.

Very early the next morning, Jesus went off alone to a deserted place to pray. In spite of the crowds and all the time he spent healing people, Jesus always spent time in prayer to God the Father. When the apostles came and told him, "Everyone is looking for you." Jesus said, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come."

Jesus' loving example helps us to understand that there are many people in the world who are in need. As believers in Jesus, we are called to reach out to others with our time and our help.

Jesus also shows us the importance of spending time each day in prayer to God. Prayer is our connection with God, and the energizing force to help us know, love, and serve God. We need to stay connected!

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