

Reflections

Week beginning Sunday 5 February 2012 Epiphany 5

Reflecting on Mark 1:29-39

From Canon Hugh

This is the conclusion to Mark's portrayal of a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Last week we encountered him teaching and driving out the forces of evil. Today, we find him involved in healing ministries. These three aspects of ministry are central to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and are central to the priorities of the Kingdom of God.

Boiled down to the basics, God's plan for humanity is that all would come to know God, all would come to dwell in the light of God, all would share in the abundant life of God. Jesus has come into the world to make this known and to change all things for all time.

How do we respond? Take a closer look at this passage today. It begins with Jesus and his small group of initial disciples going to Simon's house in Capernaum. There they discover that Simon's mother-in-law is sick. Jesus goes to her, immediately raises her up (early resurrection imagery), and she begins to serve. This woman becomes the example for all of us - we encounter God and the true disciple immediately follows. This unnamed woman shames our lack of commitment, our desire to do things in our own time, our unwillingness to let God be God.

If we are to bear the title of being disciples of Jesus, then we are called to be like this woman. We are called to learn of God and to help others do the same. We are called to confront the darkness in ourselves and in the world around us with the light of Christ. We are called to be healers and reconcilers acknowledging that God desires abundant life for all. When we are engaged in these types of behaviour, then we can truly call ourselves disciples of Jesus.