



February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 74 Gospel MK 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Spiritual Reflection:

"There is no need for any special rank or position to do the work of an apostle. Do not feel uncomfortable on account of your position or that of others. Are you working for God or for status? You will, indeed, drink my cup, but as for sitting at my right hand or left, that is not mine to give—it is for those for whom it had been prepared by my Father" (Mt 20:23)" – Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. Simon's mother-in-law does the work of an apostle after being cured.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Do you wait for a special position or title before you serve others?
2. Are you working for God or status?
3. How is Simon's Mother-in-law an example of what a true disciple should be?
4. How is Jesus able to reject the desire to become king?
5. Would you have let them carry you off and make you king?