

## A DAY IN CAPERNAUM, PART 2

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

## **Today's Gospel**

After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

#### Reflection

Today's Gospel reading continues from yesterday's event in the synagogue at Capernaum. Nearby, in Peter's house, his mother-in-law lies stricken by a high fever. Peter has seen the power of Jesus' word to heal and asks Jesus to come to the inner room where she is lying. Jesus' powerful word frees her from the fever, and she responds by serving Jesus, the guest in Peter's home.

Word about Jesus traveled quickly, and the sick were carried to the door where Jesus healed each one. Even demons were cast out of people. Jesus' first mission in Galilee stands in contrast to his experience in Nazareth. Here, the people were seeing the mighty deeds Jesus was doing – healing outcasts, the poor, blind and lame. These healings were "kingdom activity," offering the people a picture of the One who sent Jesus. It is not surprising that, the next day, Jesus left the house early and found a deserted place. I would guess he wanted to reflect on his mission experience in prayer before the One who birthed him and sent him forth. From his youth, Jesus had learned from his mother how to immerse himself in prayer. Jesus was experiencing how, in his preaching and healing, God's word did not fail him. God's power and authority flowed through Jesus as he was moved with compassion for the lowly ones of Israel.



### For Pondering and Prayer

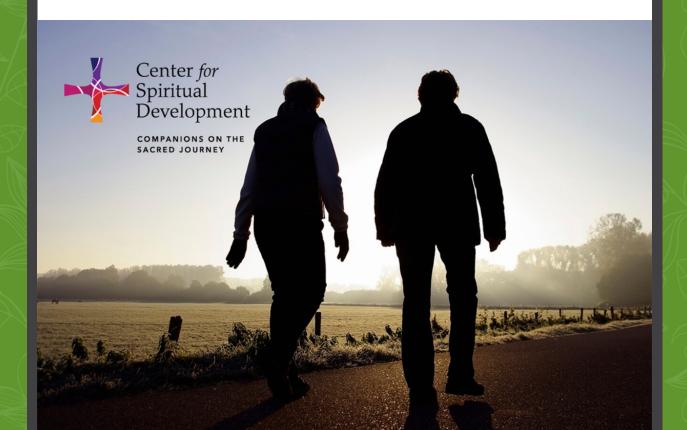
This might be a moment to read and pray the proclamation Jesus made in the synagogue at Nazareth in Luke 4:18-19 (Isaiah 61:1-2). Allow the words to wash over you, dwelling on the mission that Jesus accepted from God and that described his ministry in Galilee and all of Judea. Notice any lines or words of the proclamation that may be speaking to you at this moment of your life:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

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