

## **Discussion and Reflection Questions**

### **Epiphany 5B - 4th of February 2024**

#### **Read: Mark 1.29-39**

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' <sup>38</sup> He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

#### **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. What impact would illness have had on a person & a community in Jesus' time?
2. Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law by lifting her up (verse 31). In Mark Jesus' healing is described as lifting up. How can healing be seen as more than just physical healing?
3. Simon's mother-in-law serves as soon as she is healed. Is this her just returning to her household role in a patriarchal culture or is there something more to this?
4. What does serving look like in our world & culture?
5. What qualifications or preparation do we need to serve?
6. Jesus went to a deserted place (verse 35). How important is it for us to have deserted place experiences in our life?
7. Why do you think the disciples were so panicked about finding Jesus?
8. Why do you think Jesus didn't return to Capernaum & instead went straight on throughout Galilee?

#### **Prayer**

Saving God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick and brought them wholeness of body and mind: inspire us, his disciples, so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel by our words and by the dedication and integrity of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.