

Divine Healing

The Gospel story of Mark 1:21-39 recounts the first Sabbath of Jesus' ministry work in Galilee, where he initiated his teaching and healing efforts. Jesus began his teaching and healing work in the synagogue, his Father's house. He and his first disciples then went to Simon Peter's house where he healed Simon's mother-in-law. After her healing, all in the town who were ill or possessed by demons were brought to Jesus to be healed. The Gospel is specific to say that the whole town was gathered at the door.

This tells us that everyone in the town was afflicted with illness or possession of some type. This gives us an insight into the true nature of the healing work Jesus had undertaken. He had begun the monumental task of healing the rift between God and all of humanity. The illnesses and wounds of humanity's exile from Eden impact everyone. This is manifested in our mortality and in our being possessed by many things that are not of God, but of the world. Jesus' public ministry work was the beginning of his efforts to reunite humanity and divinity. The first full day of his ministry work was a very long day lasting until well after sunset. It encompassed healing of some type for the entire town. This was exhausting, so Jesus awoke before dawn the next day to spend quiet time in prayer with his Father. This restored him so that he was able to continue his mission in the days to come to heal and teach the people of the nearby villages.

In this Gospel story, Jesus modeled the way for restoring humanity with divinity. It begins with interior healing through quiet, contemplative prayer with God. The next phase of healing and restoration is through communal worship in God's house. Following that is healing and restoration of our family and close friends within our own homes. We then make ourselves available to engage with the community at large bringing divine love to others outside of our circle of family, friends and church. We then repeat the cycle again and again, continuously seeking to restore ourselves and our neighbors with God. Maintaining balance in our lives is essential to sustaining this continuous effort. So cherish your deeply personal friendship with God. This is how he restores us and gives us rest allowing us to continue his healing mission.

Peace Be With You,

Marc Barrett