

### **Sunday Readings:**

Reading #1: Job 7:1-7

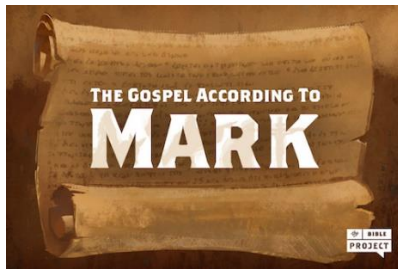
Responsorial Psalm: 147:1-7

Reading #2: I Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

A full copy of the readings for the week can be found on the U.S. Bishop's website: :

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020721.cfm>



### **Video Resources:**

**The Gospel of Mark** (The Bible Project) - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark/>

**Reflection on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Jeff Cavins – Bible Scholar, Author and SJTW parishioner!) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xoW-oKNouA>

# Gospel Reflection

## Historical Context – Capernaum

Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archaeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house—less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a “house-church” until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

## Scriptural Context – Public Ministry

This week's gospel follows directly on from last week's reading and, as is typical with Mark's gospel, the events occur on the very same day. The urgency of the gospel is obvious in this week's reading; Jesus had a very busy 24 hours! Having launched his public ministry in the synagogue earlier that day, Jesus accompanies his new disciples to meet some of their family and have a meal. However, on arriving at the home of Simon and Andrew, they find Simon's mother-in-law is sick. Unlike the public displays of his healing power that preceded and will follow this episode, Jesus does not say anything but simply takes the woman by the hand and helps her up. Her response of beginning to wait on Jesus and his disciples is a faith response and a recognition of who Jesus is. A theme that runs through this gospel is that the disciples never fully understand who Jesus is. Here, a woman who has just met him recognizes him as the Messiah and begins to serve him.

## Prayer

In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was “long before dawn” that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

## Questions for Adolescents

- Q. Why might healing have been such an important part of Jesus' ministry?
- Q. Why did Jesus go away by himself to pray?
- Q. What message does this passage hold for us today?

## Questions for Parents/Sponsors

- Q. What is the significance of Jesus healing by touch alone?
- Q. Why might people like Simon's mother-in-law recognize Jesus as the Messiah when the disciples don't?
- Q. Where and when do you find prayer most powerful?
- Q. How can you better follow Jesus' example of using prayer in the busy times?