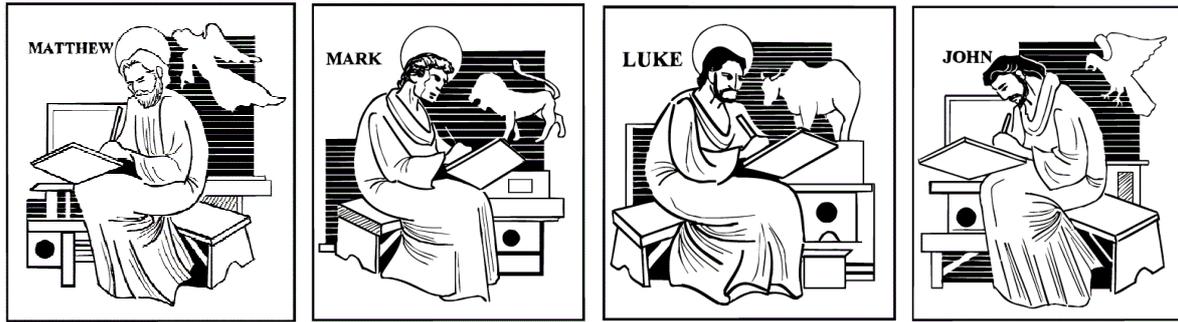


Breaking Open the Word



February 8, 2015 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: In this brief's story about Simon's mother-in-law we receive a glimpse into what a life of a disciple is all about. She is healed by Christ and then serves others in gratitude. We are healed by Christ (if we let Him) and then we are commissioned to serve others.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Why does Jesus go off and pray?
2. What do you want to do if you were in Jesus' position - stay and let others come to you or go out and search for those people to help?
3. How hard do you think it was for Jesus to walk away from the crowd?
4. How does Jesus know his purpose?
5. How are you serving others repaying Jesus?