

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mk 1: 29-39.)

“Longing for shade”



Job's prayer is a Lamentation, a complaint of a faithful person to God. It is a prayer of great faith for it expresses belief in the One who is listening. It says that our words do not fall on deaf ears. He speaks boldly to God; his is a prayer of truth, a prayer of courage and a prayer of trust.

The Gospel of Mark, comes right to the point: Jesus was told about the woman's condition, he went over to her, "grasped her hand and helped her up and the fever left her. Mark is implying that this person is being given a new life, a life that only the risen Jesus can give.

What does this new life look like? We are told when she was healed, the woman "began to wait on them." Mark uses the word "diakonia," the word for "church work," or Christian ministry. So in reality, she is "waiting" on the community and does the work of building community. When people experience this new life from Jesus, they are willing and able to serve others. What one receives one wants to share. This woman is quick in her response and her "work" isn't taken on grudgingly, but with a sense of joy.

Suffering finds final meaning only in the redemptive and healing mystery of Christ's own death. His innocent suffering and death have put new meaning on our own. His suffering for the sake of others has a redeeming aspect to it and this is an even more profound mystery. In his own life, Jesus,

like us, was repelled when he was confronted by suffering and death.

He is steadfast though, and continues to trust in His Father through it all. He will continue to pray to God, trust and walk forward to Jerusalem, showing us the path as he goes. This new life gives us the power to see the needs of others and to respond with trust and joy.



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