

Reflection for Tuesday, May 19

*"In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'let us go to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons."* Mark 1:35-39

*"In solitude we can listen to the voice of him who spoke to us before we could speak a word, who healed us before we could make any gesture to help, who set us free long before we could free others, and who loved us long before we could give love to anyone. It is in this solitude that we discover being is more important than having, and that we are worth more than our efforts. In solitude we discover that our life is not a possession to be defended, but a gift to be shared."* Henri Nouwen

The period of isolation mandated by the spread of Covid19 is being relaxed, and hopefully we can move around once more without fear. When we come out of the experience of isolation, what learnings will we take with us? In the middle of his hectic life, Jesus chose to go to a place of solitude. When he returned from that space, he was able to discern more clearly what defined the ministry God had called him to do. Isolation is imposed. Solitude is a choice. Hopefully, within our isolation we have been able to choose solitude, the kind of space that needs no words but only listening in silence for the words from God. Hopefully, out of that solitude we are able to discern how and where we are called to act, called to act in ways that enliven and enrich and love more boldly the world we are once again moving into. We will be changed. The world will be changed. In the midst of our once-again busy lives may we remember to choose solitude.

Prayer: Find a space that is still and quiet. Sit there and listen for God's presence. Put any words or thoughts into a little red wagon and send it down a hill. In the silence hear how God is speaking to you.

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