



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

January 15, 2025

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*Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew
with James and John (Mark 1:29)*

Walk with Jesus in the Gospel, Mark 1:29-39 used on Wednesday, January 15. It opens with Jesus leaving the synagogue. This connects Jesus to the praying community. He enters the home of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Jesus was very familiar with this home. Perhaps it was where he would go after a long day. Entering the home, he finds that Peter's mother-in-law is sick with a fever. Jesus approaches her, takes her hand, and helps her up. There is great tenderness in the way Jesus reaches out to her. She is immediately cured. The cure calls her to discipleship as she waits on them. Then her home is open to all those in need of cures. The whole town gathered at the door. To me, it is a call to be church. We are called to welcome all in need of healing. It is an invitation to each of us. St. Theresa reminds us that we are the hands and feet of Jesus in our world today. We are to bring the healing touch with great tenderness to anyone we meet at our door.

The next day Jesus begins his day in prayer alone. Perhaps He reflected on what He had experienced the day before. The simple cure of Peter's mother-in-law and then the door being opened to the local community. He could have stayed there. He had known success. Why not stay? As he prayed in a deserted place, perhaps he heard a deeper call. It is the call in the first reading. Jesus knew the suffering of those he met at the door but also knew the history of the descendants of Abraham. We have just finished the Christmas season which reminded us of the great mystery of the Incarnation. God so loved the world that he sent His only Son. As this reading states, "he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way." He couldn't just relish the local success. He also needed to spread the message to the nearby villages.

As church today, we are called to recognize the people at our doorstep who need the tender touch of Jesus. We are also called to reach out beyond our comfort zones to those in other places who need to be freed. May we be a welcoming church to all those who need healing and freedom.

Sr. Marie Fennewald, CPPS, is a member of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri congregation and has served the community in many capacities. To learn more about the community, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org