

Jan 15 2020 Readings: no. 307, p. 245 1st Reading: 1Samuel 3.1-10, 19-20 Gospel: Mark 1.29-39
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Wednesday January 15, 2020 Year A

Young Samuel and wise Eli are asleep in the temple. It reminds me of a time I was preaching and noticed two parishioners fast asleep during my homily. I signaled over to Fr Jonathan to go wake them up. But he signaled back, **you** wake them up, **you** put them to sleep. Yes, through God's Incarnation all creation is awakened. Once Samuel responds, as he is coached, he learns of a horrible fate awaiting Eli due to the wickedness of Eli's sons. Eli wants to know and is persistent, but God we learn is more so.

Mark's Gospel is sixteen chapter and I invite you to read the entire manuscript in one sitting. You'll discover Jesus is very busy in Mark's account and events unfold immediately and with urgency. Peter's mother-in-law neither, will wait long for attention. As soon as synagogue prayer is complete, Jesus and his closest followers head to Peter's mother-in law's. She is ill with a fever like many Calgarians these days, unable, even to get out of bed. Others are handling her matriarchal duties. She's really sick to allow this to happen. But when she is approached and touched by Jesus, not only does the fever leave her, but her full human dignity is returned. Her impulse is to respond in service immediately.

What a glorious way to express gratitude to God? Friends, there is a flow to observe in Our Lord's motions this evening. From prayer to teaching and healing and then ministry! The spokes we could say upon which authentic Christian baptism revolves.

We see a cycle Mother Church urges us to adopt and emulate. No doubt serving our brothers and sisters is at times exhausting. Kingdom building takes effort. God's work though is only accomplished by people of prayer. Prayer is like the steering wheel of our ministry. Its how we keep aligned and on track. The entire community moves nearer to God with many people of prayer loading the Gospel cargo of teaching and healing into Jesus' haul.

We the Living and moving Body of Christ are sent to heal brokenness in its many forms. We are, however, only as effective in our service, in so much as we gather in common prayer. If we imagine that healing, prayer and teaching are the spokes around which sacramental life revolves, then most assuredly Jesus in this Most Holy Eucharist is our sacramental axle.

Amen