

MEDITATION 15

Mark 2: 1-2

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them.

“When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.”

Jesus has lived and grown up at home. Originally home was Nazareth, but now it is Capernaum, a larger town within Galilee (northern Palestine). His ministry begins in and around home. A lot of his healing ministry will happen here. This is where he gets to be known. And yet, getting known is not without complication. People know him in a certain way. Will they be open to know him in another way, as “messiah”, whatever that title means with all the historic expectations put into that title?

Where is home for you?... Is home still home, or are you in a place of wandering?... Has home changed from where it used to be for any number of reasons?... Who are your family?... How do people know you?... Are the people around you open to seeing you and knowing you as you are growing, changing and evolving?... Have they seen the change in you or do they still see you as they saw you before significant changes in your life?... Do people really see you for who you are?... Big questions these are...

Prayer: You know me, O God... You know me as I've been and you know me as I am... You know me as I want to be and you know me as I may be afraid to be... You know me in truth and you know me as I present myself to others... Help me make peace with who I am, O God, but also as I may yet become... Help me find home at this time of my life whether I feel close to home or whether I'm still on a journey... Amen.

“So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door.”

Have you ever felt claustrophobic, not only physically but with people around you? We're not necessarily talking about numbers of people but someone stepping into your space rather than respecting it and giving you space...

Jesus is being swarmed by people because he has something they need from him - his healing. But do they fully comprehend all that this means and all that Jesus has to truly give them?

What is it you truly need?... Is it clear to you?... Some things may be obvious you need, but have you pondered what your deeper need may be?... Do you know?... Would you be able to put it into words?... Do you ask and seek and name it before God?...

Prayer: I have needs, O God... Yes... There are obvious needs I share with many others... But there is need that is specific and peculiar to me... You know what I need I'm aware of, O God... and you know what I need I may not be aware of or may be afraid to even admit to myself let alone anyone else... Meet me where I have need, O God... Help me, give me, teach me, heal me as I keep seeking... seeking more but also seeking peace in what is as it is... Amen.

“And he was speaking the word to them.”

What word was Jesus speaking?... We're going to find out more, but we already have some clues... Like John, Jesus starts off preaching forgiveness through repentance, but also about the “kingdom of God” against the kingdoms of the world. What is it Jesus is inviting people to step into? What healing do people need in their whole beings and not just in their bodies or minds?

What would Jesus word be to you?... What word do you need to hear, and not just an affirming word but maybe also a challenging word?... What do you need to awaken to? Where do you need encouragement but also challenge? Where do you need more love but also more truth? Where do you need support but also a word to tell you to stop making excuses?...

PRAYER: Help me, O God... Help me listen... Open my heart to listen to your word... Give me the courage to listen and to take it in, especially if it's a difficult word to hear at this time... Is it about a situation or a circumstance that I have been avoiding?... Have I been making excuses rather than facing something constructively with grace as much as judgement?...

Am I refusing to make peace with something that cannot be as I want or hope or expect it to be?...

Am I being fair to a person or relationship I am pressuring in certain ways because I have needs but cannot make room for the needs that are in others named or unnamed?...

Am I missing love from the right places that come from you and expecting that from persons and sources that leave me disappointed and wanting for more?...

Am I feeling put down or disempowered by a person or situation where I need the healing and the Spirit of Jesus to flow in me and through me too?...

Meet me where I am, O Holy One, and take me where I can yet go... In Jesus' name... Amen.