

GOSPEL PEARLS

Faithful to prayer

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On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils. (Mark 1, 29-39)

During His public life, Jesus' typical day involved preaching and healing the sick. This does not mean that the Lord ever forgot about prayer. The Son of God, felt the need to speak with the Father and with the Holy Spirit. The active life, with the obstacles, the sufferings and the hardships that it entails, is always based, spiritually, on prayer and finds refreshment in it. This example teaches how necessary it is that all those who wish to follow Jesus never forget to dedicate time each day specifically to prayer. And do you forget to pray or are you faithful every day to the prayer commitments you decided with your spiritual father?