"After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them." Mark 1:29-31 NLT

lectio // Mark 1:29-34

I have loved reading from Mark's gospel for the past few years. It's gritty and captures a very human feel as well as the supernatural. Here, Peter's mother-in-law is sick with a high fever. High fevers were deadly then, and many people died because it could not be controlled. Our house has been filled with a virus this season (Jan/Feb) and our trashcans are FULL of germs and tissue. Sickness is a part of life on earth, but many of our modern day diseases are DEADLY, like cancer (sin personified). Jesus' norm was healing because he has power over disease and, as we read, demons! How do the demons know who he is and his closest friends and family do not?

oratio

Dad,
A large part of being a pastor is tending to the hard and sad parts of humanity. The sickness, death, divorce, and a ton of relational tragedy. Jesus moved in and out of the highs and lows of life, bringing YOU into ever situation. I may have the responsibility of casting out demons and raising moms from sick-beds, but I do not see many results. I just pray and believe and hope. It would be nice to see miracles from your promised power over our human issues, mostly because folks could IMMEDIATELY see your love for them instead of the slower (but amazing) kindness route. Is my faith too weak for the miraculous?

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root