

Why His Disciples Couldn't Find Jesus

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"Simon and his companions went to look for Him."

-Mark 1:36

"Very early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
Jesus got up, left the house,
and went off to a solitary place,
where He prayed."

-Mark 1:35

Before dawn the next day,
while the sky lay black and still
and shimmering stars hung
over the sleeping village,
Jesus woke in the dark,
stepped into the quiet,
and walked to a secluded place.
And there, He prayed.

This was the first time
the disciples rose
and found Him gone-
the first time they realized
He drew strength
from a place they could not see.

And you may not know this about Jesus-
even when physically and emotionally spent,
His first priority
was to stay in step with His Father.

They would see Him do this again-
before choosing the Twelve (Luke 6:12),
before feeding the five thousand (Matthew 14:23),
before walking on the water (Mark 6:46),

before teaching them to pray (Luke 11:1),
and before the cross-
alone among the olive trees (Mark 14:32-36).

But it began here.

Trace the day in reverse-
begin at the quiet place of prayer before dawn,
and then go back to the flood of desperate people at the door.

Sabbath kept them home-
unable to travel
or carry the sick-
but it couldn't stop
the story from spreading.

So when the sun set,
the whole village rushed
to the same house
where Jesus had healed
Peter's mother in law,
bringing the sick,
the broken,
the tormented-
and He healed them all
and silenced the demons.

Back through the battle in Peter's home,
back to the demonic moment in the synagogue.

A day of confrontation,
compassion,
authority,
and unrelenting need.

A day when darkness looked
for opportunities
at three different doors-
His reputation,
His friend's home,
and an entire town.

Yet at every turn,
Jesus walked in step with His Father
through the three battle fronts of that day.

And from there He stepped out of yesterday
and prepared for today-
alone,
with His Father,
in prayer.

The synagogue showed His authority.
The home showed His compassion.
The crowds showed His healing and deliverance power.

You may not know this about Jesus,
but His early morning prayer
showed His source.