

Lent

devotions

READ:

Mark 1:21-45 (click to open link)

REFLECT:

I love a good story. I especially love stories with action, that hold the edge of my seat and keep my attention. I love stories that move with urgency and purpose. I think maybe I enjoy stories like this because I often am the polar opposite of action and urgency. I prefer to take things slower, to relax, to take my time.

Mark is a storyteller, and he's good at it. The Gospel wastes no time jumping into the ministry of Jesus and showing he was a man of urgency and action. Throughout the book (and beginning with today's reading), we find words describing the movement, excitement and action Jesus demonstrated. Phrases like, "they went", "Just then", "News about him spread quickly", "as soon as", "immediately", and "very early" indicate action words.

And these words of action and urgency make sense. Jesus had about three years of active ministry and time to develop the disciples (in our world, the length of middle school) so it makes sense that as Mark tells the story, he conveys this. It's effective, it helps us stay connected to Jesus' story, and it helps us see the kind of ministry Jesus led.

Urgency, action, and excitement can be good though. At times, we all need it. It livens up our story, it helps us focus on what's needed, what's important, and it keeps us on our toes.

RESPOND:

What parts of your life need a little more urgency? Where could you use a little excitement? As you participate in these 40 days of Lent, how can you keep focused on what needs to come next as you read through the Good News of Jesus' life? After all, it's the greatest story ever told!