

January 16, 2008  
Wednesday of the First Week of Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:  
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20  
Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10  
Mark 1:29-39

*Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'*

*Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also.*

There are two messages for me in today's scripture readings. First, I cannot read this passage from Samuel without stopping at the line I quote above. It is my ongoing hope that this line is my constant prayer. Not only that I listen to the leadings and nudges of God's small quiet voice within me, or the voice of God in others, but also to the voice of those who need me to be Jesus for them—the voice of the suffering, the lonely, the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. This takes me to the second message in today's readings, the gospel. Jesus worked all day healing the sick and the possessed and then woke up early to go off alone to pray. Through his time of prayer he knew what do next. I am sure that his time of prayer was filled with both times of expression and times of silence where he listened for the promptings of God. IAS I imagine that day for Jesus, it seems to me that he must have been tired after the day he spent. But he still arose early to pray. Io reinforces for me that all action must be rooted in prayer and a busy schedule is no excuse for missing my time of prayer.

*We need to be able to pray. We need prayer just like we need air. Without prayer,  
we can do nothing.  
~Mother Theresa*