

## ONE-MINUTE DEVOTIONS FOR THE CHURCH MUSICIAN

+ February 5, 2012 +

### *For Sunday, February 5: Mark 1:29-39*

According to what scripture tells us, many of the healings performed by Jesus sound like relatively simple matters. A leper stretches out his hand and is quickly healed in Matthew 8; the paralytic is immediately cured in Matthew 9; Jairus' daughter is brought back with three simple words in Luke 9; and so on.

The account of Jesus' cure of the hemorrhaging woman earlier in Luke 9, though, permits us a glance into the exertion that these healings required. "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me," Jesus says to Peter.

Just imagine, then, how exhausting the seemingly endless succession of healings must have been for Jesus in this reading from Mark: "That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons..." (Mark 1:32-34a).

What then becomes Jesus' top priority? Solitary prayer. "In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed" (Mark 1:35).

As musicians of the church, we may not think we are healers, but in fact we are. Among all the means of communication God has given us, music possesses consummate healing powers for those with broken hearts or troubled souls. Make sure that you, like Jesus, allow yourself regular time for solitary prayer so that your spirit may be reinvigorated by the one who gives us strength in all things.