



Essential Evangelization

Suffering

In today's first reading Job laments, "I am filled with restlessness until dawn." Have you ever felt hopeless or restless? Job was a man who was previously blessed with a life of prosperity, a wife and servants, children, property, livestock and a well respected reputation. His life took a very big turn for the worst. He lost his health and wealth and even his friends. Job had open sores all over his body and lay in unrelieved misery for months. During this time he also bore the grief of the loss of three daughters and seven sons. He had become repulsive to his wife and to all those who previously had loved him. His hope was gone. Finally in his great suffering and prayer and search for why, Job came face to face with his Creator and was able to say, *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You."*

Many times it takes us getting to rock bottom to look up. At that point there is no further low to go. We ask why and look for answers. There is only one answer to all that ails us: Jesus.

In today's Gospel Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law who had been sick. And when the crowds heard this they came in droves to find Jesus. And on finding him the disciples said, "Everyone is looking for you."

Are you looking for a cure for hopelessness or restlessness?
Are you looking for Jesus?

"He had no majestic bearing to catch our eye, no beauty to draw us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, knowing pain. Like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed."

Isaiah 53: 2-5

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*