

The Most Important Work Happens While You Sleep (Mark 4:26-29)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Jesus is going throughout Galilee announcing, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) Crowds of people are flocking around him to hear his stories and receive healing. Often he withdraws alone to pray. On this day at the Sea of Galilee he gets space to teach by using a boat as his pulpit. He tells a story about how the leadership of God grows in our lives -- *even while we sleep!*

Opening Prayer: "In Christ alone my soul finds rest... Selah" (Psalm 62:1, 5).

Read Scripture: Mark 4 (NIV84)

26 [Jesus] also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.