

morning prayer
(Mark 1: 35-38)

Scripture:

Very early in the morning, before daylight, Jesus went off to a lonely place where he prayed. Simon and the others went out, too, searching for him; and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." Then Jesus answered, "Let's go to the nearby villages so that I may preach there too; for that is why I came."

Meditation:

it was early morning
the stars still
present
jesus
 had tossed and turned
 all night
 thinking
 of what had passed
 through him
 during the day
it was 4:00 am
jesus sat up
 in his bed
 listening
 to the silence
 of early morning
felt full of faces
 full of events
 during this last day
 full of memories
jesus knew
 he wanted to go
 down by the lake
 before everyone else rose
walking slowly
 down the path
 that led to the shore
reflecting
 on stories of women
 in a nearby village
 the suffering their lives contained
jesus

had been moved
by listening to them
their pain entered into him
whirled around
so fast during the night
that he needed
to let some of it out
release the intensity
by the water

jesus looking up
at the stars
feeling the vastness
of the universe
jesus
arriving at the shore
of the lake

he knew
far out
the fishermen were
making their way back
for the present
there was no one
only company
was the profound silence
of the early morning

jesus
in the stillness
in the darkness

sat down
along the shore
praying
abba

i have come here
this morning
because i want
to let your presence
fill me
it has been so hard
as of late
as i walked yesterday
a group followed me
their children were sick
they wanted me
to lay hands on them
the tears
and the anguish

of the mothers
moved me

abba

i needed to be
at the village
but i could not leave
that group
i laid my hands
on the heads of those small ones
your light abba
flowed through me
into those ones
now cured

abba

i know you understand
what i am saying
yesterday very soon
there was a whole
hillside of requests
filling every empty space

abba

i know you understand
more than anyone else
when i tell you
this early morning
i wanted to run

abba

felt drained
exhausted
and even empty

abba

the one i love
that is why
i have come here
i don't want
to feel overwhelmed
don't want to

abba

i look out
into the distance
i know
there are many fishing boats
returning
but i see nothing

abba

sometimes
i don't feel you close
i know
 you cannot solve all this
 for me
i have just come here
 to sit with you a while
to tell you
 what has been happening to me
 because
 i know you care

abba

i find when i am
with you
i have the strength
 to return
 to work

abba

tears streaming down
 that leper
 who approached me
 yesterday
 who was so disfigured
remaining in silence

abba

sometimes
the suffering
 of our people
 is so great

jesus

feeling his abba

close

very present

in this moment

abba

yesterday afternoon
i passed through the center
of the village
naomi ran out
of her house
she told me
how the night before
four roman soldiers
had bound her son
for plotting
to overthrow their power

she asked me
to help her
abba
i felt so powerless
so weak
walking through those garrison doors
to downstairs
walking into the cell
where they had beaten
joshua

more tears streaming
down jesus' face
as he told his abba
the cruelty of the empire
how the youth
of the country
were being annihilated
by a fearful monster

jesus
peering out
into the darkness
reflecting
on how so much injustice
is so cruel
how it destroys
so much human life

as jesus
sat praying
with his abba
something began
to happen

once again
everything made sense

jesus felt
deep union
closeness
that morning
by the lake
in the early dawn

once again
everything made sense