

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
February 4, 2018
The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7 + 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 + Mark 1:29-39



Reflection by Dyann Brown, OPA

Today's readings offer us narratives of lament, hope and Good News.

In the first reading Job paints a vivid litany of the meaninglessness of a life undone. The restlessness, drudgery and misery seem never-ending. Life is windswept without hope for better days. Nowadays, many have similar feelings of hopeless tomorrows as globally displaced persons or undervalued or physically-harassed employees. In the second reading, Paul shares that he preaches the gospel with an obligation to speak its truth to all who hear. With such intent, there is no reason for him to boast about or try to enhance what is already the Good News

The Psalms invite us to give thanks to the Lord who heals our broken hearts. Whether we are low in spirit or in station, He cares and binds our wounded lives and souls. He is gracious.

Today's gospel relays the story of Jesus entering the home of Simon's mother-in-law only to learn of her sickness with fever. As He holds her hand, her fever goes and in kindness, she waits on them. This gospel uplifts and contrasts Job's lament about the hopelessness of life. Healing her and others who later crowded at the door were Jesus' acts of proclaiming the Good News of God's salvation upon us. In our laments, despair, illness, displacement, drudgery, stay open to the belief that God will not abandon you. Blessings, all.

What are some ways we can preach the Good News this week?

Image: <http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/peters-wifes-mother-gospel-story/>