

THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Text: Mark 1:29–34

We Are Saved to Serve

Introduction:

1. Read Mark 1:29–31

²⁹ Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹ So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

I. JESUS HEALS PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW (v.29–31)

A. NOTICE JESUS...

1. HIS COMPASSION...

- a) Jesus Had Just Been Teaching in Synagog when He Cast a Demon Out from a man
- b) But the Service is Over & the Crowds are Gone—and Now He's in a Private Home
- c) But Whether in the crowded synagogue or a quiet home—Jesus is ready to heal

2. HIS CONCERN...

- a) Jesus was not distant or indifferent to the needs of others
- b) The Swiss Doctor Paul Tournier writes, "My patients very often say to me, 'I admire the patience with which you listen to everything I tell you.' It is not patience at all, but interest.' A miracle to Jesus was not a means of increasing his prestige; to help was not a laborious and disagreeable duty; he helped instinctively, because he was supremely interested in all who needed his help. (Barclay)

3. Jesus Had Compassion and Concern for Peter's Mother-in-law...

And It Was No Trouble to Healed Her—He Wanted to!

- a) And He Has Compassion and Concern For Us As Well!
- b) **(1 Peter 5:7 NIV)** Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.

B. NOTICE THE DISCIPLES...

1. They Bring Jesus Home "after church"

- a) Not Everyone Brings Jesus Into their Home After Worship Service...
 - (1) They Come Home to the Same Old Arguments and Turf Wars...
of a Home that is really More of a Battleground than Home
 - (2) And Jesus is Left "at church"!
- b) But Remember the early disciples followed Jesus before He had preformed Miracles
 - (1) They Followed Him by Faith — Later that Faith was Confirmed by Jesus Power
- c) They Told Jesus about Peter's Wife's Mother who lay Sick w/ Fever
 - (1) The Whole House is Upset—and they Bring This Burden to Jesus' Attention

2. Peter has a wife...

a) **We Don't Know Much about Peter's Wife—**

- (1) But We Do Know She Must've Been a Remarkable Woman!
- (2) Because it would take a Remarkable Woman to Be Married to Peter!

b) It Appears from 1 Cor. 9:5 Peter's Wife was a Believer Who Traveled with Peter During Some of His Ministry in the Early Days of Church.

- (1) Both Clement of Alexandria and Eusebius wrote that ...
- (2) Peter and His Wife were Martyred Together—
- (3) And that Peter was made to Watch as His Wife was led to Execution Before Him
- (4) Clement also stated that as she walked to her death, Peter called her by name and said, "Remember the Lord!" (Lowell F. Johnson)

3. It Also Shows Us Something Touching About Peter...

that He is Caring and Supporting His Mother-in-law at home.

C. NOTICE PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER...

1. She Lay Sick with a Fever...

- a) But Luke—who was a Physician—said she was sick w/ a “high fever” (Lk 4:38)
- b) This was no low grade fever—but a Burning Fever with all that accompanies it

2. A Fever is the Body's way of fighting an infection...

- a) A High Fever Indicates she was fighting for her life
- b) But When Jesus Took Her Hand—Immediately Her Fever Left Her!
- c) Jesus Miracles are Instantaneous—She Didn’t Need to Recover, She Was Restored

3. AND AS SOON AS SHE STOOD UP SHE BEGAN SERVING THEM!

- a) She began attending to their needs.
- b) **“She used her recovered health for renewed service.” (Barclay)**

II. JESUS HEALS THE CROWDS OF CAPERNAUM (v.32–34)

“At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.” (Mark 1:32-34)

A. BY THAT EVENING A CROWD HAS GATHERED AT PETER'S DOOR!

1. v.33 Mark Records “The Whole City was gathered at the door”!
2. All Types of People — With All Types of Diseases!

B. JESUS HEALS ‘EVERY ONE’ (Lk 4:40)

1. Jesus is Approachable! Anytime Day or Night!
2. Jesus is Compassionate! He Healed Every one, He turned away no one
3. Jesus is Accessible! Ask it it shall be given, Seek and you will find!
4. Jesus is Powerful—Not only did He heal the sick, He cast out demons

C. AND JESUS CAST OUT DEMONS

1. Luke Includes this additional detail... (4:41)
2. Jesus is not only concerned with our physical wellbeing, but our spiritual
3. Which is Why He Would Not Be Side Tracked from His Mission
 - a) by the crowds of people (Mark 1:35–39)

III. SOME LESSONS FOR US

A. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

CS LEWIS: “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for a different world.”

1. **We Long for a Perfect World—but this world is far from perfect...**
 - a) A World that can be so beautiful — yet so corrupt
 - b) So Desperate for love — but demonstrates hate
 - c) A world that craves life—But is filled with death
 - d) A world that desires more — but deprives so many
 - e) Filled with food — but is starving
 - f) It desires peace — but is at war
 - g) It seeks health — but is sick
2. **It's hard to comprehend the level of Disease, Suffering, Sin and Death that pervades everything in this broken world**
 - a) **Disease that attacks healthy living cells...**
 - (1) Polio, Typhus, Anthrax, SARS, H1N1, Covid-19 Corona Virus
 - (2) And We Haven't Even Found a Cure for the Common Cold...
 - b) **One Thing We Have Found is that Quarantine Works**
 - (1) It's Fascinating that It was God Who instituted 1st Quarantine in History
 - (2) In the Book of Leviticus chapters 13 & 14
 - (3) The World is Practicing the Same Principle of Quarantine God instructed over 3,000 yrs ago — simply because it works!
3. **Maybe a chemical compound can be found in the Amazon to cure cancer**
 - a) **But NO chemical compound in nature can cure death**
 - b) **Only Jesus Could Do That**

B. JESUS MIRACLES ARE ALSO ‘SIGNS’ SHOWING SOMETHING MORE

1. **They Are Supernatural Miracles—but they are also what John calls ‘signs’**
2. “Some see the miracles recorded in scripture as an implausible suspension of the laws of the physical universe. As signs, though, they serve just the opposite function. Death, decay, entropy, and destruction are the true suspensions of God’s laws; miracles are the early glimpses of restoration.“Jesus miracles display the true laws of the new creation. Jesus healings are not supernatural miracles in a natural world. They are the only truly natural things in a world that is unnatural, demonized and wounded”. —Jurgen Moltmann
3. **One Day This Broken World Will Be Destroyed —**
 - a) **There Will Be a New Heavens and New Earth...**
 - b) **Where God Will Make All Things New!**

C. WE SEE WHAT THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST CAN DO FOR A HOME

- 1. By Their Faith—they Invited Jesus into their home**
 - a) His presence brought hope to their home (v. 30).
 - b) His presence brought healing and help to their home (v. 31).
 - c) His presence brought devotion and service to their home (v. 31).
- 2. His Compassion and Care, His Presence and Power are available**
 - a) to any anyone who will invite Him into their Home and Heart.
 - b) “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev 3:20)

D. WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE

- 1. As Soon as Peter’s Wife’s Mother was Healed—she rose up to serve!**
 - a) Jesus Set Her Free From the Fever—She Was Set Free and Served
 - b) Jesus Saved Her From the Fever—She Was Saved to Serve
- 2. Jesus Helps Us So That We May Help Others!**
 - a) It Was Compassion That Brought Jesus Into a Broken Sin Scarred World
So We Can Be Saved to Serve

CONCLUSION:

- 1. (John 16:33) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**
- 2. We Have Been Saved to Serve God and Serve Others**

Reach Out This Week and See Who Needs Help

- Does Someone Need an Encouraging Card or Call?**
- Does Someone Need Medicine Delivered?**
- or Groceries or supplies picked up?**
- Pray for one another and Help one another**
- And Let Christ into our homes and heart.**