

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*“The Master, a Mother-In-law & Miracles”*

**Mark 1:29-34**

**AUGUST 23 –29, 2009**

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Sat							
Fri							
Thu							
Wed							
Tue							
Mon							

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week as we return to the Gospel According to Mark we will pick back up by looking at **Mark 1: 29-34** as our text. We continue to see the authority of Jesus demonstrated for us as the Master lives out before His on the pages of Sacred Scripture His unique life here on earth as a man. In our passage this week we will see *“The Master, a Mother In-law & Miracles”*. Read about these three from the story found in **Mark 1:29-34**.

*Suggestion for prayer: Father, teach me from Your Word this week.*

**MONDAY** – In how **verse 29** begins it reminds us of the previous lesson when we saw Christ in the synagogue casting out a demon from a possessed man. We read, *“Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.”* There is some question dealing with the subject of this sentence. The question is whether it should be *“He”* or *“they”* who are coming out of the synagogue as there are some manuscripts which contain both renderings. It would seem obvious that the disciples who had previously been called to *“follow”* Jesus would all be attending morning worship with Him on the Sabbath. Regardless as to whether it is *“He”* or *“they”* we find the parties all arrive at the house of *“Simon”* (Peter). Peter and Andrew who originally were from Bethsaida (**John 1:44**) apparently had relocated in Capernaum and it is their home which they all enter. Of all the gospel writers’ accounts of this miracle, Mark alone mentions specifically who was there to witness this miracle. It is interesting to see here that this is the first occasion that Peter, Andrew, James and John are selected to bear witness to certain events in the Lord's life. Mark goes out of his way to be clear in mentioning Christ's inner core of men. There are places in Scripture where we see only the triumvirate of Peter, James and John going with Jesus (The Transfiguration—**Mathew 17:1**, and Jesus' Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane—**Mathew 26:36-37**). Every time we see the names of the 12 disciples mentioned in Scripture there seems to be a pattern in which they are listed in three groups of four men each. Peter's name is always listed first, and Peter, Andrew, James, and John always make up the first group (**Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:13-16, Acts 1:13**). Here the men who appear to be the closest to Jesus are about to witness His power in a private setting.

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus for being a “friend of sinners” like me.*

**TUESDAY** – According to Jewish custom the main Sabbath meal came immediately after the Sabbath service in the synagogue which would be the

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

sixth hour, or 12:00 noon as the Jewish day begins at 6am. It would be reasonable to think Jesus was coming over to eat and get some rest and yet once again, He is called upon to help and we see He spends Himself on and for others. In **verse 30**, we are immediately introduced to another person in this story; namely Peter's mother-in-law. This obviously tells us that Peter was married a fact we learn from reading **1 Corinthians 9:5** as well. Luke in the recording of this account, tells us that the disciples "made request of Him concerning her" (**Luke 4:38**). Jesus was asked to offer His help in this situation. Mark simply tells us that Peter's mother-in-law, "lay sick with a fever". We also read of more details concerning the condition of this woman from Luke, "The Beloved Physician" (**Colossians 4:14**) as he says she was "afflicted with a **high fever**". Of all the accounts in Scripture we find Dr. Luke gives us the most medical related information as he says she not only had a fever, but a "great" fever. The Greek word for "great" is μέγας (megas). Need I say more, she had a mega fever! She needed more than some medicine as she "lay sick with a fever..." she was confined to bed over this.

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, teach me to be concerned for others as Jesus was.*

**WEDNESDAY** – I think it is necessary to fill in some details to Mark's account of this miracle of healing which simply tell us Christ came and "took her by the hand and lifted her up". This is completely true, but as only a Doctor would see things Luke adds some details that are interesting. He records that Jesus "stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her". The Beloved Physician captures the care and concern of a doctor as he paints the picture of **The Great Physician** as He stands over His sick patient to bring comfort and cure. Luke tells us that Jesus "rebuked" the fever. This is the same word that Mark used in **verse 25** to tell us that Jesus "rebuked" the unclean spirit from the demon possessed man. It does not matter whether it be demons (**Mark 1:25**), the wind (**Mark 4:39**), or fever (**Luke 4:39**), Jesus rebuked them all and they obeyed Him. This is what words like awesome were made for beloved. Jesus Christ exercises complete control over all things, it makes no difference to Him what the situation may be; He is the creator and sustainer of life itself and everything that exists (**Hebrews 1:3**). What takes place next is also incredible and a testament to the type of woman Peter's mother-in-law was. "...immediately the fever left her. And she served them." Simple and straightforward; Jesus rebukes the fever, it leaves immediately, and Jesus lifts this woman to her feet and she gets busy with the hospitality of a godly hostess. She doesn't say, "My fevers gone, but I am terribly exhausted". One moment she had been under the pain of a boiling fever, the next moment she is on her feet and busy "serving" (diakoneo), ministering, or doing the work of a "deacon" if you will.

Suggestion for prayer: *Triune God: Father, Son, and Spirit. Your almighty power is incredible. Help me to fear You and to stand in awe of You as I should.*

**THURSDAY** – The next two verses (**32-33**) let us know that the word must have traveled fast as to Jesus' power over demons (**verses 23-26**) and physical pain such as this high fever (**verses 29-31**). Mark writes, "At evening, when the sun had set..." This tells us that the people waited throughout the afternoon until sunset when the Sabbath with its restrictions (which included the carrying of burdens) had ended.

We now read that the people were bringing "all who were sick" and Mark quickly adds "and those who were demon possessed". The people that had witnessed the casting out of the unclean spirit at the synagogue as well as those who heard of Christ's delivering a woman of a violent disease that afternoon were prompted to seek out Jesus for healing and deliverance. **Verse 33** would appear to be hyperbole when Mark records the "whole city was gathered together at the door". Hyperbole (an intentional exaggeration) is a legitimate form of speech and we find it in various places in Holy Scripture. This detail of "the whole city" is unique to Mark. Remembering the Petrine influence and guidance believed by many scholars to be true of this Gospel According to Mark it is easy to imagine the sight of Peter beaming as he watches Jesus healing and dealing with the massive crowd at his door. Read **Isaiah 53:4** & **Matthew 8:17**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask God to help you glory in the person & work of Jesus.*

**FRIDAY** – The power of Christ as well as His great love and sympathy were never lacking and this crowded scene in **verses 32-34** demonstrates this clearly. What an amazing sight it must have been as Jesus according to Luke's rendering of this account, "laid His hands on every one of them and healed them". Luke again shows us the doctor perspective of Jesus one by one treating His patients. Also we find that there is added by Matthew the reminder of Christ's "Authority in Words" as he records that Jesus "cast out the spirits with a word". It was and is His words that control and produce His desired effects. **Verse 34** continues by telling us that like earlier in the day at the synagogue Jesus "did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him". Although the demons had orthodox theology, Jesus "did not allow" them to speak. The Greek word is in the imperfect tense showing a continued refusal. We'll look into some possibilities as to why Jesus refused them to speak this Lord's Day. Read **Acts 16:16-18**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You Jesus for being all powerful and loving to me.*

**SATURDAY** – All these scenes of healing (from Peter's mother-in-law to those who came to Peter's home to see Jesus), vividly remind us of our sin, its affects, our fallen condition and enmity with God. All this reveals our need of a Savior. Listen to the words of the early church Father Jerome: "Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence. Where is Jesus? He is already here offering himself to us. In the middle," he says, "among you he stands, whom you do not recognize." "The kingdom of God is in your midst." Faith beholds Jesus among us. If we are unable to seize his hand, let us prostrate ourselves at his feet. If we are unable to reach his head, let us wash his feet with our tears. Our repentance is the perfume of the Savior. See how costly is the compassion of the Savior. Our sins give off a terrible odor; they are rotteness. Nevertheless, if we repent of our sins, they will be transformed into perfume by the Lord. Therefore, let us ask the Lord to grasp our hand. "And at once," he says, "the fever left her." Immediately as her hand is grasped, the fever flees". Read **Matthew 1:21**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You Jesus for saving me from my sin.*