

## MARK 1:29-34

## HEALING FOR SERVICE

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

According to Leviticus 26:16 and Deuteronomy 28:22, a fever was not a symptom of a disease but the punishment for a covenant-breaker. The rabbis referred to a fever as a “fire within,” which was given by God and could only be healed by God. Thus by healing Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, Jesus is not revealed as an aspirin but as God himself. The compassionate action of God in the world is seen in Jesus when he goes to her, takes her hand and helps her up. This is a personal and relational action by a loving God. And in Peter's mother-in-law's action following her healing, we see the proper response to our loving God. It is the response of discipleship – serving God. It shows that she is not only physically whole, but spiritually restored in her relationship with God.

Who among us has not experienced the fever of sin? In the incarnation, death and resurrection, Jesus has come to us and offered his hand. Through faith we have grasped his hand and allowed him to help us up. How will we serve him?

**Father, let me not desire healing without craving the spiritual restoration that leads to a life of service. Show me how I might serve you better. Amen.**