



SIMON PETER'S HOUSE

Mark 1:29–34 and Luke 4:38–41

²⁹Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. ³²At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴Then 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 1:29–34

³⁸Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. ³⁹So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. ⁴⁰When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.

—Luke 4:38–41

Read Mark 1:29–34 and Luke 4:38–41

No house is exempted from the unwanted intruders of pain, sickness, and suffering. They break in without warning and enter every house regardless of social status,

vigilance, or safeguards. These intruders not only torture members of the household, but they also rob the whole house of its joy, security, and comfort. Though there is no effective deterrent to these horrific invaders, there is solace when Jesus is invited into the house. All of us at some time will endure pain, sickness, and suffering no matter where we live, where we go, or what safeguards we take.

Our natural inclination is to try to deal with the intruders ourselves before we invite Jesus into the house. We mistakenly think that if we are in pain, sick, or suffering, Jesus will not want to enter our house. Nothing could be further from the truth! Jesus seeks out the weakest, the most infirmed, and the neediest in order to minister the depths of His grace. This is the very lesson Paul the apostle learned in his suffering. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* It is not health, nor the exemption from pain, sickness, or suffering that draws Jesus to us, but rather our need.

When we are dishonest about our need, we not only miss out on the ministry of Jesus to us, but we unknowingly influence others to hide their need, and thus miss out on the touch of Jesus too.

When Jesus entered Peter's house, He changed the whole dynamic of the household. The disruption of sickness was transformed into a testimony of restoration and renewed service. Such a dynamic testimony of grace drew the whole community to Peter's house to receive the touch of Jesus. Those who came were not disappointed!

As you pore over your study this week, consider how Jesus wants to minister to all the places of disruption in your life and the lives of those in your community.

1. Use Mark 1:29–30 and Luke 4:38 to answer the following questions:
 - a. Where was Jesus coming from?
 - b. Who was with him?
 - c. Whose house did they enter?
 - d. What was Jesus told *at once*?

2. Share any insights you have from Mark 1:30 and Luke 4:38 concerning:
 - a. The status of the one who was sick
 - b. The sickness
 - c. The request

3. According to Mark 1:31 and Luke 4:39:
 - a. What did Jesus do?
 - b. What was the result?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Peter was married (1 Corinthians 9:5), and this was his wife's mother who was sick.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus didn't come only to give his life for us. He also came to share his life with us. When Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law, she gets a tiny foretaste of his resurrection life, and she immediately uses it to serve.⁶

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sundown marks the end of the sabbath, roughly six o'clock in the evening. The Jewish people were then allowed to move about and go to Jesus with their needs.

“When Jesus casts out demons, it shows the kingdom of God is advancing, driving back the power of the enemy over peoples’ lives.”⁷

4. What happened at sunset that evening outside Peter’s house? Mark 1:32–33

5. According to Mark 1:34 and Luke 4:40–41:
 - a. What did Jesus do?

 - b. What was the result?

6. What is your greatest takeaway concerning Jesus at Simon Peter’s house?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus would not allow the demons to speak because the time for such disclosure was not yet at hand, and such a revelation would have certainly been misunderstood by the people. In all likelihood, if the people had understood him early on to be the Son of God, or Messiah, they would have reduced his mission to one of political deliverance from Roman oppression (cf. John 6:15).⁸