

Mark 1:29-34  
Jesus, the Mighty Healer

<sup>29</sup> And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup> And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**The Thesis Statement**

Jesus works of healing and deliverance revealed that the King of the kingdom of God had arrived among men.

**The Thing to Learn or Do**

1. Jesus compassion and power resulted in acts of miraculous healing.
2. This healing ministry continues in the apostles.
3. This healing ministry of Jesus is to continue during the entire Messianic Age.

Previous sermon: Jesus Commands the Unclean Spirits

**Biblical context:**

Mark is the memoirs of Peter, that is, the memoirs of the gospel of Christ that Peter preached.

Identity of Mark: an important figure in the early days of the church.

**Textual context:**

Jesus came into Galilee preaching "the kingdom of God is at hand..." (v15)

In Capernaum (v. 21)

On the Sabbath (v. 21)

Taught with authority (v. 22)

Healed a man with an “unclean spirit”

Demon knew who Jesus was...

This was no small miracle – “fame spread throughout Galilee.” V. 28

### **<sup>9</sup> And immediately he left the synagogue**

He didn’t linger around for people to “ooh and aah” over him.

Reminder: this is still on the Sabbath Day

### **and entered the house of Simon and Andrew,**

Evidently these two brothers shared a house, or maybe it was the family house they had inherited.

### **with James and John.**

Luke 5:10 tells us that James and John were partners with Simon in the fishing business.

### **<sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever,**

We know nothing about Peter’s wife, except reference in 1 Cor. 9:5:

Do we not have the right to **take along a believing wife**, as do the other **apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas**?

The fact that Simon’s mother-in-law was in his house shows us that either his mother-in-law was visiting, maybe she was there to help take care of her daughter after the recent birth of a child, or maybe she lived there permanently. Perhaps her husband had died and now she had come to live with her daughter and her son-in-law.

We don’t know what disease was afflicted her and or how long she had been suffering.

We do know two things:

- 1) She had a fever
- 2) It was severe enough to lay her out on her bed.

Luke, in fact, in his gospel, and remember that Luke was a physician, described her as having a “high fever” or she was “in the grip of a high fever” or “she was suffering from a severe attack of fever.” (WH)

**and immediately they told him about her.**

These men were aware of Peter’s mother-in-law being sick. They were concerned about her. There was a sick person in the household. She was a very important person – the mother of Peter’s wife.

Of course, we have no idea what kind of relationship Peter had with his mother-in-law – whether there was tension between them, or a deep affection he had for her, but we don’t need to know that. All we need to know here is that this woman was sick, she was laid out with a fever, and there was hope that Jesus could do something help her.

Of course, it would have been most natural for them to tell Jesus about Peter’s sick mother-in-law. After all, they had just seen him deliver a man possessed by a fierce demon. Jesus could possibly do something to help this sick woman.

**<sup>31</sup> And he came and took her by the hand**

Jesus was not afraid to touch a sick person – wasn’t afraid of catching her disease.

**and lifted her up, and the fever left her,**

Luke adds a detail or two in his account of this woman’s healing. This is how he describes it, “<sup>39</sup> And he stood over her and (C) rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.” Luke 4:39. This word “rebuke” that Jesus used is the same word he used when he rebuked the storm on the sea of Galilee. Luke 8:24 says, “[he] (A) rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, (B) and there was a calm.”

So if we put Mark’s and Luke’s accounts of this healing together, we would see Jesus coming and standing over the woman, rebuking the fever and then taking her by the hand and assisting her in rising up out of her bed and standing up.

**and she began to serve them.**

How do we know she was healed? It’s because she went to work immediately. And not only did Jesus heal her of her fever, but she seems to have had a fresh infusion of energy because she immediately began to wait on her guests as an attentive hostess.

Here her son-in-law Peter, her daughter's husband, had brought these guests into the house, Jesus and James and John and Andrew was there also and she needed to be hospitable, she needed to provide them with food and drink, and whatever they might need.

**<sup>32</sup> That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons.**

It was hard, it was impossible to keep these two miracles that Jesus had performed silent. He had healing the demon possessed man at the synagogue before he came to Simon Peter's house and then healed the mother-in-law. News traveled fast and when the people in that area heard it, suddenly hope was born afresh in their minds. This prophet Jesus had done these two healings, maybe he can also heal me, or maybe they had a loved one or friend who was in need of healing.

Yet because it was the Sabbath, they had to wait until sundown to walk and take the short journey to Peter's house.

**<sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door.**

By these two miracles of deliverance Jesus had stirred up the whole town. IL –

Not just a few people had come, but a great multitude – the whole city poured out of their homes and shops and fields and came excitedly to Peter's doorstep.

**<sup>34</sup> And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.**

When we look at the parallel passages in the other gospels we read in Matt. 8:16:

<sup>16</sup> That evening they brought to him many who were (A)oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits (B)with a word and healed all who were sick.

Re: demons testifying:

1. Didn't need evil verifying his identity,
2. His time to be revealed was not yet.

From Matthew we learn that he would issue a word of command to cast out the demons and we also learn that he healed all who were sick. In other words, Mark here says he healed many people – this does not mean that there were some he did not heal.

Matthew clarifies that point: he healed everyone who needed Christ's compassionate, powerful healing touch.

Luke's account of this incident reads as follows:

<sup>40</sup> Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and <sup>(A)</sup>he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. Lu. 4:40

So we see that Luke, the writer here who was a physician, mentions that people of "various diseases" were brought to Jesus and he healed them all. There was not a single disease that Jesus could not heal. No affliction of body was too difficult for him to heal. And we notice another detail here in Luke. What was the method he used to heal all these people? Jesus laid his hands on them. He touched them, similar to the way he had touched Peter's mother-in-law.

This human touch is very important. God can heal from a distance with no human touch, just out of his sovereign power, but when Jesus is with people, he would touch them to heal them. God often uses physical means to communicate healing or spiritual blessing.

In the Lord's Supper, for example.....

So, early in Jesus' Galilean ministry we see these great signs of deliverance from demon oppression and the healing of diseases that Jesus was doing as proclaimed that the Kingdom of God had arrived (v. 15).

This was a fulfillment of OT prophecy:

Isa. 9:1-2 - <sup>[a]</sup> But there will be no <sup>(A)</sup>gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he <sup>(B)</sup>brought into contempt the land of <sup>(C)</sup>Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he <sup>(D)</sup>has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>(E)</sup>The people <sup>(F)</sup>who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
 those who dwelt in a land of <sup>(G)</sup>deep darkness,  
 on them has light shone.

Isa. 35:4-6 - Say to those who have an anxious heart,

"Be strong; fear not!  
<sup>(H)</sup>Behold, your God  
 will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> (L) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> (J) then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

Isa. 42:6-8 - I will give you (L) as a covenant for the people,  
(M) a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> (N) to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
(Q) from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name;

Isa. 61:1 - (A) The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has (B) anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor; [a]  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and (C) the opening of the prison to those who are bound; [b]

Matt. 8:17 adds: <sup>17</sup> (W) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: (X) "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Isa. 53:4-5 (A) Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
(B) smitten by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> (C) But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
(D) and with his wounds we are healed.

NT writer, Matthew, by the HS, informs us that in some way Christ's suffering brings us healing – healing not only of our souls and spirits, but our bodies.

Throughout Jesus's ministry we see deliverance and healing....

This was a sign that he was the Son of God, the Messiah, had arrived.

These acts of compassion and power confirmed that he was the Messiah and revealed a vital aspect of the Messiah's ministry – to bring deliverance and healing to the people who had been oppressed by the effects of sin.

The Apostles' Ministry continued the healing ministry of Christ:

Mark 6:12-13 - <sup>12</sup> (R) So they went out and (S) proclaimed (T) that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> (U) And they cast out many demons and (V) anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Matt. 10:6-8 - <sup>6</sup> (I) but go rather to (J) the lost sheep of (K) the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, (L) 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' [C] <sup>8</sup> (M) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, [D] cast out demons. (

Acts 3 – healing of lame beggar

Acts 10 – restoring of Dorcas (Tabitha) to life by Peter)

Acts 19:12 - so that even **handkerchiefs** or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them

Acts 20 – Eutychus raised from dead

Acts 28 – Island of Malta - Paul heals Publius' father

### **Early Church's ministry also continued the healing ministry of Jesus:**

We read in Mark 16:18 that one of the signs that would accompany believers is that "they will lay their hands (AS) on the sick, and they will recover."

1 Cor. 12:11 – "gifts of healing"

1 Cor. 1:7- "you come behind in no gift waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus" - Paul is commending the Corinthian church – a church which had problems – but a church nevertheless which had much to commend it – all the gifts of the Holy Spirit were present – this would include the gifts of healing" – and Paul indicated clearly here that these gifts were to continue until the return of Christ.

The final arbiter on whether these gifts, such as gifts of healing, should be present in the church is seen in...

James 5:13-16 - <sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him (Z) sing praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, (AA) anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And (AB) if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, (AC) confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, (AD) that you may be healed.

When we are sick, we should first of all pray. And we should call for the elders of the church to anoint us and pray for us. The oil is one of those physical elements which the Lord uses to bring about spiritual benefits – in this case physical healing.

I am all for modern medicine. But we should pray first, and then see how the Lord may bring about healing.

### **The Thesis Statement**

Jesus works of healing and deliverance revealed that the King of the kingdom of God had arrived among men.

### **APPLICATIONS - The Thing to Learn or Do**

1. Jesus compassion and power resulted in acts of miraculous healing. They revealed who he was. Yahweh had come among his people. He was the Son of God.

Matt. 16 - He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, (W)"You are (X)the Christ, (Y)the Son of (Z)the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, (AA)"Blessed are you, (AB)Simon Bar-Jonah! For (AC)flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, (AD)but my Father who is in heaven

Luke 5 - <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, (G)they enclosed a large number of fish, and (H)their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. (I)And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, (J)"Depart from me, for (K)I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup>

Foretaste of final deliverance from suffering and sickness and oppression of evil forces.

Resurrection of Dead and New Earth = final consummation.

3. This healing ministry continued in the apostles.
4. This healing ministry of Jesus is to continue during the entire Messianic Age.

Exo. 15:26 – I am the LORD who heals you

Psa. 103:3 - who (A)forgives all your iniquity,  
who (B)heals all your diseases,

He doesn't always heal – Paul - (but Paul prayed)

He mighty deliverer and healer has come, the King of Kingdom of God. Let us rejoice that his power has been made known and continues to be made known. He is compassionate and powerful; we can call upon him.

Whether he heals us or not in this life, he will ultimately heal us and give us bodies like unto Christ's.



The great Healer has come, let us rejoice, let us call upon him, let us serve him and worship him, for he has come to save us from our sins and sicknesses. To him be glory forever.

Jeff Gregory

Good Shepherd Community Church

Dallas, TX, U.S.A.

August 26, 2018