

## The Reason Jesus Heals You Mark 1:29-39

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Amen.” (Ephesians 1:3).***

*<sup>29</sup> They left the synagogue and went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed, sick with a fever. Without delay they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup> That evening, when the sun had set, the people kept bringing to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door. <sup>34</sup> He healed many people who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was. <sup>35</sup> Jesus got up early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went out. He withdrew to a solitary place and was praying there. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and, when they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is looking for you!” <sup>38</sup> He told them, “Let’s go somewhere else, to the neighboring villages, so that I can preach there too. In fact, that is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> Then he went throughout the whole region of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.*

A Sunday School class was asked the following: Why did God make mothers? This is how some of them answered: To help us out of there when we’re getting born. She’s the only one who knows where the scotch tape is. Mostly to clean the house. In the minds of kids and even in reality, moms serve their families. That is the great things about moms. If you ask them, they’ll tell you they love it. It is hardwired into their nature. What’s the worst thing that can happen in many of our homes? Mom gets sick, and the whole house gets thrown off kilter.

Peter’s mother-in-law had gotten sick. She was really sick. She was consumed by a fever. It was so bad that she couldn’t make it to synagogue. She was laid up in bed. Jesus had just driven out a demon that day at the synagogue. Immediately following we are told that he, Peter, Andrew, James, and John started walking over to Peter’s mother-in-law’s house. It was the common practice to attend a special Sabbath meal. When they got to the house Mark records it so simply and tenderly. Jesus went to her, took her hand, and helped her up. The fever left her just like that! The man who had cast out a demon from a stranger now casts out a fever from Peter’s beloved mother-in-law.

But here’s where we want to pay special attention. What did she do after she was healed? Mark tells us, “*She began to wait on them.*” She used the gift of health she had been given to do what she could do out of thanks to Jesus. She served. It’s why Jesus gives gifts to us like time, health, wealth, education, and so on. It’s why he heals us. It’s his plan so that we can serve.

You may be wondering, “When have I been healed by Jesus?” You are here today and not in bed with a fever. Who do you think did that? Many have had broken bones that have healed. Many of you had colds or the flu earlier in the year. And yet you didn’t die because of the incredible way God made our bodies with immune systems. To think that I sat next to my wife as we drive 1600 miles to Florida last winter while she was sick with COVID, (which we found out a couple days later.) And I never even got a sniffle. That’s all God’s doing. It’s true! Jesus heals you every day. This is something to thank him for! How?

Serve. To do anything else is to waste Jesus’ healing. Think through how you would answer when laid up in the hospital or struggling with some medical problem and someone were to ask you: “Why do you want to get better? I want to be healed so that I can serve. This is Jesus’ plan for you.

But there is more to why Jesus heals you. Very simply, he cares about you physically. Sometimes God allows pain to enter our lives because he wants to show us our need for him. Pain turns our faces around if we have forgotten him. Pain tells us that we aren’t home yet. Pain keeps us from being satisfied with the world. Pain has a way of keeping us longing for the only thing that will satisfy us, the one person: Jesus. Do you realized how blessed you are? Not every life lived in this world includes knowing God. Yours does. Pain leads us to cry out to the One who has lived life through human tears. He even asked “why” of the Father on the cross. He showed the world beyond a shadow of a doubt that he cares for you. It leads us to seek out Jesus.

And that’s exactly how our text continues: *That evening, when the sun had set, the people kept bringing to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door.* Do you see what was happening here? It was the Sabbath and the legal distance for walking on that day was to the synagogue and then back home. Many had seen Jesus cast out the demons at the synagogue. They may have gone home wondering, “Could he fix my mom? Would he fix my dad? Maybe those people were home sick unable to attend the synagogue that day. And their relatives came home and wondered, “Could he, would he help us? As soon as the sun set and the Sabbath ended, they showed up at his door with their loved ones needing his help.

Sunday morning (or Thursday evening) arrives. You’re loaded down with a week’s worth of worry and stress and pain and sickness and guilt. You look forward to going to see Jesus for help. Jesus cares about your physical needs. He does heal you. Even if you have to suffer with a lingering illness, he hasn’t forgotten you. You know he’ll help because he went to a cross for you to pay the price you owed. He then rose from the grave to assure you of a place where no one needs to be healed. This is Jesus’ plan for you.

And that's finally why he heals you. To point you to the fact that he cares most about your spiritual health. The text goes on to say, *"Jesus got up early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went out. He withdrew to a solitary place and was praying there."* Don't miss the point! Jesus was up into who knows what hour of the night healing people. If there ever was a time to sleep in, you'd think Jesus earned it. But instead, he wakes up early while it's still dark outside. He gets away from the hustle and bustle of disciples and the people wanting his help so he can talk with his Father. And what did he pray about? Well, what was his all-consuming, only passion? You. The message of your salvation and bringing that mission to its fruition at the cross for you. That's a comforting thought, isn't it? When Jesus says, "I know my sheep. I call them by name." it means that he didn't just pray for a nameless, faceless mass of humanity. He prayed with your image in his mind's eye. You are the apple of it, after all.

Do you see what Jesus is doing here? Not only is he spending time with his Father perfectly in our place. He's laying down an example for us. He wants to spend time with you as well. Jesus, the holy God, not only had time to pray, he made time to pray. If you're too busy to pray, then you're just too busy. One church father said, *"If there was ever a reason to be sober in the evening, it is so that you can get up early in the morning to pray and read God's Word."* Have you ever noticed that when you skip that part of the day, you can say, "I'll get to it later." But then five simple tasks chase you around all day. Can't Jesus do the opposite when you put first things first and spend time with Jesus in Word and prayer? It's why he heals you. Yes, so that you can serve. But also so that you have the energy to be served by him through his Word. He heals you to point you to the greater healing he wants for you spiritually.

When the disciples come and chase after Jesus and say that everyone is looking for him to heal some more, Jesus said, *"Let's go somewhere else, to the neighboring villages, so that I can preach there too. In fact, that is why I have come."* Why did Jesus come? To preach. Let him preach to you through his Word and open your eyes to see how he didn't choose the path of superstar faith healer. Instead, he chose the path that led to a cross on Calvary—to heal you eternally. This is Jesus' plan for you. How could we not serve a Savior like that? As you make plans, plan to be served by Jesus through his Word. Then plan to serve him with your life. That is why Jesus heals you.

**"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20,21)**