

THE HEALING OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

We will be studying seven aspects of the Life of Peter by the following seven passages from the Book of Matthew.

- Peter's Calling Matt.4:18-22
- Peter's Mother-in-law Healing Matt.8:14-17
- Peter's Walking on Water Matt.14:22-33
- Peter's Confession Matt.16:13-24
- Peter at the Transfiguration Matt.17:1-22
- Peter at Gethsemane Matt.26:36-51
- Peter's Great Denial Matt. 26:31-35, 69-75

Today's lesson is recorded in the synoptic gospels (Matt.8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41).

We will study today's lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Mother-in-law fever Matt 8:14
- Miracle favor Matt 8:15
- Misery lure Matt 8:16
- Messiah fulfillment Matt 8:17

The healing of Peter's mother-in-law occurred a short time after Peter joined the traveling ministry of Jesus.

Mark and Luke record that the healing occurred after a Sabbath ministry in a Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:21, 29).

After the synagogue meeting, the ministry team went home with Peter and Andrew for lunch and discovered that Peter's mother-in-law was very sick (Matt.8:15; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:39).

On that evening, the entire city brought it's very sick and demon-possessed to Peter's home for healing.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Peter's Mother-in-law Healing.

- 1. Upon arriving at Peter's home, Jesus saw the bigger picture associated with his mother-in-law's sickness (Matt.8: 14).**

The Greek word for saw is (horao / a.a.ind). Horao means to see with natural mind (rationalism or empiricism) or with the spiritual mind (faith in God's word) (1 Cor.2: 14-16).

What did Jesus see with the spiritual mind? This lesson will discuss some of the spiritual things that Jesus saw in the bigger picture of God's plan as a result of BD residing and functioning by the faith cycle (2 Cor.5: 7).

- 2. One thing that Jesus saw was a believer suffering by association with the priest-nation of Israel under divine discipline (Peter's mother-in-law).**

She was suffering from an uncontrollable high fever (Luke 4:38). Historians have discovered that this was a common disease in the nation (John 4:46-54, 52).

Lev.26:16 and Deut.28:22 teach that this type of fever was part of the cycles of divine discipline upon the priest-nation – “fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life.” (Lev.26: 16 / ha qaddachath)

3. Another thing that Jesus saw was an entire metro city suffering from demon-possession and illness associated with the cycles of divine discipline.

“And when evening had come, they brought to Him **many** who were demon-possessed (daimonizomai / p.m.ptc aplm); and He cast out (exballo / a.a.ind) the spirits with a word, and healed (therapeuo / a.a.ind) all who were (echo / p.a.ptc aplm) ill (kakos).” (Matt.8:16)

Two words reveal that the priest-nation is in apostasy and under divine discipline (demon-possession and ill (kakos / sickness related to evil). Luke 4:40 records that there were a variety of diseases that destroy good health.

Bible scholars, who understand the cycles of divine discipline, believe that at this time Israel was under the third or fourth cycle of discipline.

4. Jesus’ presence brought hope of God’s mercy to this entire metro city.

Jesus identified part of the national problem and solution in the parable of the Pharisee and Publican (Luke 18:9-17).

“The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people; swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer.’” (18:11)

“But the publican (tax-gatherer), standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’” (Luke 18:13)

It is interesting that because of apostate religious legalism the sick had to wait until evening to get healed (Mark 1:32-33). Jesus is Lord of Sabbath (Matt.12: 1-14).

POINT: Grace ministry must be flexible and willing to shift priorities to accomplish its mission. It is important to establish your priority responsibilities based on your role in the plan of God. There is always enough time in a day for the priorities of the plan of God (Eph.5: 16-17).

5. At the public healing, the demons recognized Jesus as the Messiah but were ordered to remain silence (Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41).

Jesus wanted the people to recognize Him from the word of God not from the word of demons, who work for the father of lies (John 8:44; 1 Tim.4: 1).

This miraculous day of healing at Peter’s home was another historical day of fulfillment of messianic prophesy (Matt.8:17; Isa.53:4; 1 Pet.2:24).

Matthew is the only one to mention this point. The theme of the Book of Matthew is messianic prophecy fulfillment.