

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Luke 4:38

We are in the 14th point of Historical Chronology in the Life of Christ.

14. The Lord visits Peter in Bethsaida after demonstrating His authority over the angelic realm.

- That demonstration of authority was accomplished in the synagogue at Capernaum.
- Remember that the demon was attempting to derail the momentum that was underway in the Lord’s ministry.
- The demon could not resist the authority the Lord had over him.

38 Then He *got up from the synagogue. . .*

- **ναστ ἑδ π τ ς συναγωγ ς** – Remember the Rabbi teaches while sitting down, so He literally “got up or stood up” to leave the synagogue.
- This is in Capernaum after rebuking the demon.

. . . and entered Simon’s home (Peter’s house in Bethsaida).



The area of Capernaum and Bethsaida.

Now Simon’s **mother-in-law. . .**

“Mother-in-law” - Greek Word **πενθερά** – **PENTHERA**

- Literally refers to a “*mother-in-law.*” This is how we know Peter was married.
- Apparently, his wife’s mother lived there with them.

The text states that she . . .

. . . was suffering from a high fever,

“Was” – Imperfect active indicative of ε μι - EIMI
- Indicates that she had been suffering for some time

“Suffering” - The participle συνέχω - SUNECHO
• “To be distressed or tormented”
• She was extremely uncomfortable being tormented by this fever.

They did something here - -

They went to the one Person who could do something about the problem.

... and they asked Him to help her.

περ α τ ς – The preposition PERI plus the genitive AUTOS
• Literally, they asked “concerning her or for her.”
• The construction indicates they were interceding for her.

This is a prayer request – except their eyes are open and they are standing face to face with the Lord.

- Why did they ask Him?
- They knew that He could do something about the fever.

Does He answer their request for help? **Yes!**

39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her. . . (Note Mark 1:31 for another account of this).

- Demonstration of His authority over sickness

Note some of the characteristics of Messiah’s Kingdom that were well known from the Jewish frame of reference.

- Remember “**Repent** for the kingdom is on the brink of being instituted”
- The Kingdom revealed in the Old Testament was free from demonic influence.
 . . . Satan and his demonic hosts will be bound for 1000 years (**Revelation 20:1-3**)
- The kingdom is on the brink of being instituted because He had exercised authority over the angelic realm in the synagogue.
- He had also demonstrated His authority over sickness – people will actually live long, healthy, and prosperous lives according to **Isaiah 65:20-25**.
- This authority that Jesus Christ is wielding over sickness is a taste of what it will be like when He is ruling that kingdom.
- Related passages - **Isaiah 11:2-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-16**.
- And remember this all fits into the Jewish frame of reference of what they expect when the Messiah will come. . .

Isaiah 11:1-10

The promised Messiah comes in the line of David.

(1) Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

Remember the baptism of Christ - the Spirit descended upon Him as a dove.

(2) The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

(3) And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

Judgment and blessing are associated with Messiah's arrival.

(4) But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

(5) Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.

The Lord executes authority over nature.

(6) And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them.

(7) Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

(8) The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

When He sits on that throne everyone will know of Him and the justice He has promised.

(9) They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

(10) Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.

38b ... Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her.

➤ They interceded on her behalf.

39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her.

➤ Nothing stands up to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ when He wields it.

... and she **immediately got up** and waited on them.

➤ Jesus Christ does not do anything unless it is done perfectly.

➤ When fevers break, we still have to spend time recovering from physical weakness, BUT when He does it, Peter's mother-in-law is able to immediately get up and start serving them.

Application:

- ◆ Peter's mother-in-law was being tormented by an extremely high fever.
- ◆ This had been going on for some time so they had tried everything possible to get the fever to break.

What do they do next?? They turn to the Lord . . .

When people are exhausted with trying their own remedies or courses of action, they *turn to the Lord*.

That is what they did - they *turned to the Lord* for help.

There are so many Christians who will not ask the Lord for help.

- Some consider it, but think their problems are too minute with which to bother the Lord.
- YOU ARE NOT BOTHERING THE LORD.
- There is no problem too small for which He is not standing at the ready to help you.
- You are just as important to Him as Peter’s mother.

Matthew 10:29

29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent (Roman currency - **ASSARION** – a copper coin)? **And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.** **30** “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

- The Lord knows when a **sparrow** falls to the ground.
- He also knows the number of **hairs** on your head.
 - He knows the minutest details of your life
 - Instead of asking Him for some help, we struggle on our own.

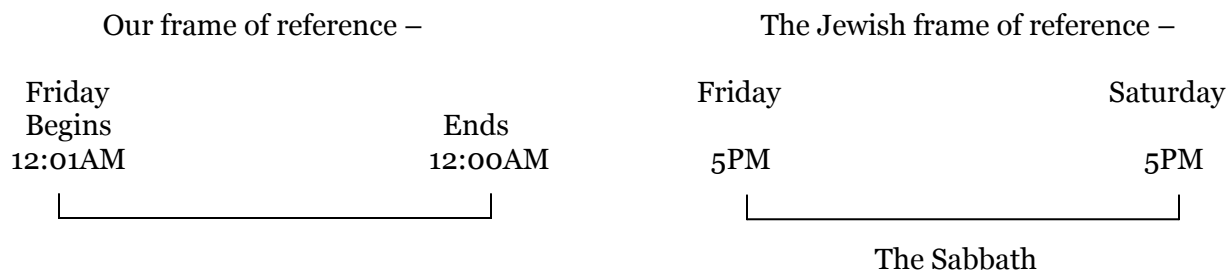
ARE WE NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMMON SPARROWS?

SINCE GOD KNOWS THE EXACT NUMBER OF HAIRS ON YOUR HEAD, SHOULDN’T YOU TRUST HIM TO KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

- It doesn’t matter what the issue is - -
 - Your marriage
 - Your family
 - Your children
 - Your business
- It does not matter how great or small.
 - The Lord stands at the ready with the same authority that He wielded in Peter’s home to help you today.
 - All you have to do is ask Him just as they did in Peter’s house.
 - We ask Him by following the protocol of prayer.

40 While the sun was setting. . .

- Jesus is still at Peter’s – Saturday evening – and the Sabbath is over.
- Peter’s house becomes the greatest hospital in the world with the greatest Physician who ever walked the face of the earth - Jesus Christ.



... all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.

- After 5PM – when the Sabbath had ended – many who were sick were brought to the Lord.
- The Lord was healing them. What is He demonstrating by healing the sick?
 - His Messianic authority
 - He was the promised Messiah

Is there anything special about laying His hands upon them?

Did He have to do that to heal them? No.

Remember the royal official's son who was healed? The son did not have to be present to be healed!

The laying on of hands is His identification with their needs – He's demonstrating compassion for the sick.

41 Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would **not allow them to speak**, because they knew Him to be the Christ (the Messiah).

- Why did He not allow Satan's task organization to identify who He was?
 - In fact they did "... know Him to be the Christ."
 - However, they were a testimony from an unworthy source – so they were denied the honor.
 - John and the disciples were given the honor to identify and announce the arrival of the Messiah.

The people didn't identify who He was and they were the ones who were supposed to recognize His Messiahship in light of the demonstration of His authority and the fulfillment of many Hebrew Scriptures.

He spends the night at Peter's home.

42 When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place;

The Lord makes time to pray and to rest.

- Why is He going to a secluded place? To pray and to rest.
 - He **prayed** from His humanity – in His humanity He had to have the will of God revealed to Him just as we need the will of God revealed to us.
 - The rigors of ministry demand **rest** for the weary servant.

... and the **crowds** were searching for Him,

"Crowds" - ο χλοι πεζήτουν

- The plural of χλος - OCHLOS
 - "A populace or multitude"
- Imperfect tense of πιζητέω - EPIZETEO
 - Indicates the people were "searching for Him with great desire"
 - Throngs of people teaming to find Him

... and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.

We observe in Luke 4:43 that it was the Father's plan for Him to go way from them.

43 But He said to them,

"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

POD (for the communicator) - The communicator's loyalty must be in the Lord and His infallible Word as opposed to people no matter how positive they are.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.