

**Luke 4:38-44**

<sup>38</sup> Then He got up and *left* the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. <sup>39</sup> And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

<sup>40</sup> While the sun was setting, 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. <sup>41</sup> 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.

<sup>42</sup> When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. <sup>43</sup> But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

<sup>44</sup> So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

**1. Observations from the Text:**

- a. The Healing of Simon's Mother-in-Law: **(vv 38-39)**
  - i. After leaving the synagogue with the demoniac, Jesus retires to Simon Peter's house.
    1. This is the first mention of Simon Peter in Luke.
    2. Most likely Simon has already been renamed Peter but has not yet formally left his life to follow Christ.
  - ii. Those at the house asked Christ to heal Simon's mother-in-law
    1. This is an excellent example of prayer.
  - iii. Jesus heals her immediately and intimately.
    1. He bends close to her and rebukes the fever.
    2. The fever obeys Christ just as the demoniac did.
- b. The Healing of the Sick at Capernaum: **(vv 40-41)**
  - i. The setting of the sun signals the end of the Jewish Sabbath, therefore allowing the Jews to bring their sick to Jesus.
  - ii. Jesus did not seek out the sick to heal, they were brought to him.
  - iii. Jesus lays hands on them to heal them.

1. This is an expression of love and compassion, not a necessary action.
- iv. Demoniacs and the ill are healed all night long.
- c. The Jews of Capernaum Beg Jesus to Remain with them: **(vv 42-44)**
  - i. Jesus withdraws to a solitary place to pray and fellowship with the Father.
    1. We know that this was a regular custom of Christ.
  - ii. The people who have tasted the power and love of Christ seek him out eagerly.
  - iii. Jesus refuses to stay at Capernaum because he has been ordered by the Father to go into the entire region.
    1. In addition to healing the people he had preached to them the Gospel.

## 2. Our Application:

- a. All members of the Trinity desire to limit human suffering.
  - i. God the Father has sent Christ to this town and others to heal the sick, release those in demonic captivity, and to regenerate the lost.
- b. However, God the Father does allow sickness and suffering to accomplish his purposes:
  - i. **John 9:1-3**
  - ii. **Genesis 50:20**
  - iii. **Hosea 1:2**
  - iv. **John 21:18-19**
  - v. **Acts 9:15-16**
- c. God's healing work involves our petition and faith.
  - i. Simon and the others prayed to Jesus to heal Simon's mother-in-law.
  - ii. The people of Capernaum brought the sick and possessed and lifted them up to Jesus.
- d. We should be involved in the same healing work of God.
  - i. Just as Christ ministered to the sick to provide legitimacy to his ministry, so should we.
    1. **Matthew 5:16**
- e. We should remember that the healing and regeneration of Christ is not to be hoarded.
  - i. The Jews of Capernaum begged Jesus to stay with him but his mission was bigger than just the lost in Capernaum.
  - ii. We should be careful not to hoard the life-giving power of the gospel.
    1. **Romans 1:14-15**

## 3. Conclusions:

- a. God in his great love for us both wills our temporary suffering and temporary relief to produce eternal maturity and life in us.
- b. God calls us to be obedient and serve those in need with the persistence and humility of Christ.