

## **“Ministering In A Home”** **Mark 1:29-31**

The Gospel records tell us about many miracles that Jesus did. Many of these miracles were done in public with lots of people around. Mark 1:29-31 is the record of a miracle that happened in the privacy of a home with few people present. It shows Jesus focusing, not on the multitudes, but on one person's needs. What a challenge for us! Minister to the multitudes, but never neglect one person either!

The setting for this miracle was the home of Simon. Jesus had been in the synagogue teaching, preaching, and healing – ministering to the multitudes. Leaving the synagogue, He took Simon, Andrew, James and John and went to Simon's home. Jesus had had a busy day and was more than likely seeking some rest and refreshment at the private home. But when they arrived at the home, the disciple took note of the fact that Simon's mother-in-law was sick. Immediately they told Jesus about her condition. Jesus went to her and healed her and she was able to serve as hostess to guests in her home.

These verses from Mark's Gospel tell us some facts about people that deserve our attention.

- I. We learn something about Jesus. Jesus was always concerned about people in need. Simon's mother-in-law was sick and Jesus cared. He was tired but never too tired to minister to others. He ministered, not for show, but for the glory of God and to meet people's needs. Jesus was always – in public and in private – the humble servant of God. We should be like Jesus.
  
- II. We learn something about the disciples who were present. They took their concerns and burdens to Jesus. What did they do when they learned that Simon's mother-in-law was sick? Immediately, they told Jesus. And He addressed their concern.

Are you weary, are you heavy-hearted?  
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus;  
Are you grieving over joys departing?  
Tell it to Jesus alone.

On the occasion of this private miracle, the disciples set for us a worthy example. They found someone in need and they took that person to Jesus.

- III. We learn something about Simon's mother-in-law. When Jesus healed her, she got up and served those who were in the house. She attended to and met their needs. She used her recovered health for renewed service. She regarded herself as having been “saved to serve.” Christian people have been saved by Jesus – blessed by Him in tremendous ways. We should respond by serving others in His great and holy name. No wonder the hymn writer prays:

Lord, help me to live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way  
That even when I kneel to pray  
My prayer should be for others.

Others, Lord, yes others,  
Let this my motto be,  
Help me to live for others,  
That I may live like Thee.

In this message we have looked at people pictured in Mark 1:29-31 and learned some important truths about their lives. A question remains. “What truths do people see and learn when they look at our lives today?”

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