

God With Us

A Study of Matthew: "From Mother-in-law to Many"

Matthew 8:14-17

"This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illness and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:17)

I. The Case of the Mother-in-Law (vv.14-15)

- a. Matthew seeks to demonstrate in Jesus' healing of others that He does not forget those who are often left on the outside.
- b. From the Jewish perspective, the leper was physically excluded, the Centurion was racially excluded and women were sexually excluded from the innermost worship of the community.
- c. Jesus's mercy extends beyond laws and customs. Who are the outsiders in our time?
- d. In *Matthew*, the disciples do not ask Jesus to heal Peter's mother-in-law (1 Cor 9:5). She is not asked if she believes Jesus can heal her, Peter is not asked if he is willing to believe or pray for her.
- e. According to the text the woman is healed simply because Jesus wants to heal her.
- f. Jesus shows initiative, He touches her. After the healing, *she rose and began to serve Him* (v.15).
- g. It was not the mother-in-law's service that released Jesus' grace; it was His grace that released her service.
- h. The mercy of God often works without being asked. This is fundamentally important to our understanding of the sovereignty of God. Things are the way they are for a reason. There is a plan.

II. The Healing of Many (vv.16-17)

- a. The key expression in this section is "with a Word."
- b. Jesus healed with a Word and this same Word controls even the demon possessed.
- c. In light of all of this supernatural activity of healing and deliverance, we can conclude that Jesus can add something to our lives (healing) or remove a hindrance (demons) with a Word.
- d. Jesus can touch or He can speak to a condition. This is all within His sovereign will.
- e. As believers and as world-changers, our greatest role is to W.A.I.T. on His Word. **W**atch for His Word. **A**ct on His Word. **I**ntercede for His Word to be accomplished. **T**rust in His Word.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. There should be openness to fellowship for all without compromising our doctrinal beliefs.
- b. The leper, the Gentile, the woman – each scene illustrates amazing grace. The church's outreach should also be wide.
- c. Those people who the community ostracizes should be the first focus of the church's mission. (homeless, minorities, immigrants)
- d. In every community there are "the disdained", "the unscheduled", "the dirty", the "labeled lazy", and "the unclean." These are the ones that Jesus wants the church to remember.

He sent out His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. - Psalm 107:20