

Weaving the Word

Healing a High Fever

Part 10 – June 29, 2014

Welcome to a place where we diagnose the deceptions that blind us, and take 'em to the Great Physician. And today, it's time to open the family games!

We're weaving together the NT Gospels, connecting the jots to the OT Prophets, piecing in the parables, and rediscovering the people and places Jesus knew.



If there was an intervention this afternoon, and you agreed to go to rehab for the next 30 days, what would it *be for*?

What would you *want* it to be for? What would *those closest to you* want it to be for?

What *should* it be for?

Because, chances are, both you and those closest to you would be focusing your attention on a *symptom* of something more sinister.

I'd want *my personal* intervention to be for self-centeredness; because, I think that would affect most of my other bad habits, and I want to get the most *bang* for my rehabilitation *buck!*



We tend to focus on the *fever* instead of treating the *infection*.

Last week, we followed Jesus into Capernaum, where he cast out a demon in *that* synagogue.

And, this little fishing village, the Village of Comfort (Capernaum), on the Sea of Galilee, is where Jesus set up His home office.



We know Jesus lived here. (Mat 4:13, 9:1)

We know He had no home of His own. (Mat 8:20)

And, we know He stayed at Peter's house. (Luke 4:38)



And there's one house that's been revered as Peter's house since as early as the mid-1st century, while Jesus' disciples were alive.

There's a modern church built *over* an ancient church that's built *around* the meeting room of Peter's house. Want to see Jesus' office – or at least the best – *and only* – candidate?



Imagine the people crowding into this space!

Above the main meeting area of Peter and his brother, Andrew's house is the glass floor of the modern church that sits over it.

I'll post a virtual tour link on [hpWordPlay](#).



How big do you picture Capernaum?

Less than half has been excavated; but, **the whole town was about the same size as our parking lot.**

In fact, **if I'm standing in the synagogue, Peter's house is in the lobby.** And today, we'll follow Jesus as He leaves *the* synagogue and goes to *the* lobby, I mean, house.



And again I'm struck by how *perfectly* the Word weaves together!

I haven't added, removed, or rearranged any words, only woven together the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Watch as Jesus now confronts a deadly fever.

... Jesus left the synagogue ... As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John ... and went to the home of Simon. ... to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever ... Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, ... and they told Jesus about her. So ... When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ... and they asked Jesus to help her. So ... he went to her, ... he bent over her ... He touched her hand ... took her hand ... and rebuked the fever, ... and helped her up. ... and it left her. ... and the fever left her, ... The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ... She got up at once and began to wait on them. ... and she got up and began to wait on him. ... When the sun was setting, ... That evening after sunset ... When evening came, ... the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, ... the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ... many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, ... The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. ... and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ... He also drove out many demons, ... and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." ... Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, ... but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ... because they knew he was the Christ. – Matthew 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-34, Luke 4:38-41 NIV

Casting out demons demonstrated Jesus' spiritual authority; but, **it's the healing of everyone's ailments that expresses not only His power, but His fervor to erase the effects of the fall.** You see, **our sin-prone nature is the source of all our symptoms.**

With sin came sickness, death, and *self-destruction*.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ... As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. — Romans 7:15-19 NIV

Can you relate? **We all need rehab. Rest. Restoration.**

Sin has entered us. Infected us. All of us. We all have burning desires to do what'll burn us.

The diagnosis isn't good. We're good as dead. But, will you go to the Good Doctor and open up? Ah, *that's* the question. **We can't overpower it on our own; we need the *intervention* of His Spirit, and the help of faithful friends.**

Before modern medicine, a fever was far more deadly. A physician in Jesus' day would note the level of fever to assess the severity of the situation. *Calling Doctor Luke. Calling Doctor Luke.*

[Luke, a physician (Col. 4:14), is the only Gospel writer who includes this detail] Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever ... — Luke 4:38b NIV

The demands of life in Jesus' day didn't allow you to go to bed when you were sick. This poor woman is burning up and *burning out!*



How old do you picture Peter's mother-in-law?

Peter was probably in his late teens, newly married to a girl in her *young* teens, whose mother was likely married in *her* young teens ... so ... somewhere around 30. And full of life.

And seeing her this way was quite alarming. But just as Jesus rebuked the synagogue-demon in their *front yard* and *would* rebuke the storm on the Sea in their *backyard* (Luke 8:24) ...

So he bent over her and rebuked the fever ... — Luke 4:39a NIV

Anyone can temporarily relieve some symptoms, but only the Great Physician can rebuke and remove and completely restore the person.

Jesus took away her fever, healed the underlying cause, and then restored her from any remaining exhaustion to immediate energy.

She got up at once and began to wait on them. — Luke 4:39b NIV

Jesus doesn't just want us to get well; He wants us to get our eyes off ourselves. True healing empowers us to focus on others.



We tend to focus on ourselves and our symptoms. “Jesus, would you be a dear and get me an Aspirin?” He’s more the *Lion* type.

He gave His life to rid the world of all its ‘sinfection’ at its source. He’s not about to settle for simply reducing your fever.

What part of your created purpose is bedridden, because of a feverish desire for something self-serving *and* self-destructive?

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.
– Mark 1:32 NIV



Why do you suppose they waited until “after sunset”? It’s the Sabbath. It was unlawful for the Jews to carry anything, even their sick, until sundown. But, come sunset ...

The whole town gathered at the door ... – Mark 1:33 NIV

So don’t be discouraged. Don’t say it’s too late. **The beginning of their hope came at the end of their day.** And He healed ‘em *all!*

He drove out the spirits with a word [Matt’s point: Jesus’ power; He didn’t even need to use two words] and healed all the sick. – Matthew 8:16 NIV

How? Just as the prophet Isaiah had long before said He would.

He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... – Isaiah 53:4a NIV

He could heal with a word, yet Dr. Luke says He did something *more*.

... and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. – Luke 4:40b NIV

This is a uniquely Jesus thing. **He’s taking it from them to carry it for them.** And, that’s what He’ll do for you and me. But, **He can’t take ‘em up if we won’t give ‘em up.**

We need to admit our need, which requires a certain depth of humility. Our pride can kill us, like people who choke to death, by waiting too long to get help, for fear of making a scene.

The lesson: **Admit your need before you turn blue!**

And, **ask for His help on an ongoing basis.** He sent His Spirit for that very reason.

And above all: **take His advice and follow His treatment.**

The prescription’s already written in the Great Physician’s Good Book.

And, if you haven’t noticed, that sun is setting.