

# A MOTHER-IN-LAW HEALED

Luke 4:38-39

## INTRODUCTION

- Often there is conflict between in-laws, but it ought not be that way
- One of the great blessings of marriage is that it unites not just two individuals, but two *families*
- The husband and wife each are received into a new family the moment they are wed
- Today we are looking at woman who was a mother, but is best known for being the mother-in-law to the apostle Peter, and the godly home they lived in
- The Christian home ought to be a little heaven on earth
- What is it that makes a home heavenly?
- Heaven is the abode of God, and the heavenly home is that home where Jesus Christ takes pre-eminence; where he is worshipped and served
- There is little revealed about this home and family, but what is revealed is a touching scene of domestic warmth and love, sanctified by the grace of God
- We are given a little glimpse into lowly home, in a Galilean town where the healing power of Christ was displayed
- We do not know this lady's name, or her daughter's name, but we do know that the home they occupied was a pattern of godliness the all of us should seek to emulate

Note these four characteristics of a Christian home:

## I. A HOME WHERE THE SAVIOUR IS PREEMINENT

- A. Peter re-located in order to be close to the ministry of Christ

1. Peter's hometown and place of business was Bethsaida (John 1:44)
  2. Christ's base of ministry was Capernaum, which was more central in the Galilee region
  3. Peter moved house to Capernaum where he might best be able to accommodate the Lord and serve him
- B. Christ was always welcomed
1. After worshipping in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Christ and the other apostles retired to Peter's house for food and fellowship
  2. Christ often accepted invitations to eat in people's homes, and at such times would give teaching and instruction
  3. Such a home must be transformed to make way for the sinless Son of God
- C. The Christian home is a place of godly hospitality
1. We are encouraged to entertain strangers (Hebrews 13:2)
  2. We should not regard anything we are or have as our own, but rather lent to us by God for us to exercise stewardship over on his behalf
  3. Such a home employed for the Master's use may suffer damage for the Gospel's sake (Mark 2:1-4)

## **II. A HOME WHERE SUFFERING IS PRESENT**

- A. The Christian life is not immune from suffering
1. Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. (Job 5:7)
  2. Sin's curse has brought sickness, disease and death into the creation
  3. The believer, though justified and possessing eternal life, yet awaits the redemption of the body (Romans 8:23)

4. Affliction is God's tool of working sanctification in the life of the believer (Romans 5:3-5)
5. "Houses that are blessed with his distinguishing favours are liable to the common calamities of this life" (Matthew Henry)
6. We are not told whether this was a demonically inflicted fever or not, but it seems to be simply a common illness that served to manifest Christ's glory

### **III. A HOME WHERE THE SAVIOUR IS PETITIONED**

#### **A. They sought Jesus immediately**

1. "Anon" (Mark 1:30) – at once, immediately, straightway
2. They did not first call the physician and try all other means of healing before calling upon the Lord (2 Chronicles 16:12)

#### **B. They sought Jesus imploringly**

1. They besought him for her (Luke 4:38)
2. Though Christ knew of the sickness, they yet must ask in order to receive (Matthew 7:7)
3. Note that generally Christ's healings were in response to requests
4. We demonstrate our love for the brethren as we bring them and their needs before the Lord Jesus

#### **C. They sought Jesus assuredly**

1. Only the prayer offered in faith is effectual (James 1:6-7; 5:15)
2. Their prayer was an acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Lord
3. Note that these disciples who were present during Christ's earthly ministry, had the promise of physical healing
4. Healing was part of the Messiah's ministry, and proof that the Father sent him (John 5:36)
5. We have no promise that God will heal our diseases

6. God may choose to glorify himself through sickness, rather than by healing

#### **IV. A HOME WHERE SERVICE IS PROFFERED**

- A. The healing was immediate and complete
- B. The response to the Lord's mercy
  1. She immediately ministered
  2. The response of a heart that has been touched by God's grace is one of grateful service to God (2 Corinthians 5:15)
  3. Note whom she served – not just the Lord, but the disciples
  4. We serve God by serving others, particularly God's people (Galatians 6:10)
  5. This house, where Christ was exalted as head, became source of blessing that flowed to the whole city (Luke 4:40)

#### **CONCLUSION**

1. There are countless homes today that are slices of hell on earth, rather than heaven
2. Though there may be many real problems in them, the chief problem is that Jesus Christ is not Lord of the home
3. Christ still transforms homes today
4. If God is our dwelling place (Psalm 90:1), this reality should be evident in our homes
5. Think of all that the Lord Jesus has done for you, in creating you, sustaining you, redeeming you from sin, death and hell
6. Anything less than complete surrender to his service is ingratitude of the highest order
7. "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." (C T Studd)