

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

November 17, 2019

Issue 46

Lessons From Luke *Peter's Wife's Mother (II)* By: Ronnie Scherffius

“And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon’s house. And Simon’s wife’s mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.” (Lk. 4:38-39)

In a previous study we noted how the physical sickness of Peter’s wife’s mother is a parallel to sin. Just as physical sickness is common to all man even so is sin (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 1:8). We also noted how one is more likely to become physically sick when their immune system is low or if they associate with someone who has a contagious virus. This is also the case with sin and temptation (Ps. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 4:14; Gal. 6:1). Let’s continue our study noting two more lessons we can learn from the sickness of Peter’s wife’s mother.

In addition to considering the sickness of Peter’s wife’s mother one should also **note the Savior**. Luke records that Jesus “stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her” (Lk 4:39). We have no knowledge of the length of this woman’s illness. It is possible that she was staying in the home of Peter because she could no longer tend to herself because of the sickness. Regardless of the length of the illness it is evident its seriousness (Lk. 4:38). It is equally clear that none but Jesus could provide the cure for her malady. Jesus had already demonstrated His power over sickness and diseases (cf. Lk.

4:23; Mt. 4:23-25). Those diseases that could not be brought under control through the care of physicians were easily vanquished by His power (cf. Lk. 9:43-48).

How similar is our sinful condition. Sin, a malady of the soul can only be extinguished by Christ. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). He is both our sacrifice (Jn. 1:29) and our High Priest (Heb. 3:1). It is the blood of the sacrifice of the lamb of God without spot or blemish (1 Pt. 1:19) that provides the cleansing and soul saving power for the sin-sickness of humanity.

Finally, in the biblical record of Peter’s wife’s mother we must **note the servant**. At first, Peter’s wife’s mother was in no condition to serve. Sick with a great fever she was not fit - she lacked soundness of body and mind. Only after Jesus healed her did she have the strength. Afterward, however, she was not only able to serve but doubtlessly compelled. Strength of body returned and a hope of tomorrow what could she but serve the One who had restored her health and saved her life!

Again, this stands as a great parallel to man in sin. In sin man is not fit to serve God. Walking in the darkness of sin man can have no fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:5-7). Paul instructed Timothy that a man must purge himself of dishonorable things that he might be “useful for the Master” (2 Tim. 2:21 - NKJV). Sinful man has neither the spiritual strength nor the right to serve God.

However, when man has been delivered from sin through the power of Christ's blood he is not only fit to serve but compelled. John declared Jesus to be "the Lamb of God, which **taketh away** the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and the Hebrews writer affirmed that our sins and iniquities will **no more** be remembered by God (Heb. 8:12)! When we are made whole by the blood of Christ we are made fit to rise up and serve God. Surely such a great salvation (Heb. 2:3) received through the grace, mercy, and love of God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross should compel us to serve.

From the biblical account of Peter's wife's mother we learn the lessons of man's sin-sick condition, his need for a Savior, **and** accountability to serve. Realizing our lost condition we have come to Christ for salvation. Applying His blood to our sins through obedience we enjoy spiritual health and strength. Are we showing our gratitude? Are we compelled to serve?

Doing Right in God's Eyes

By: Brian R. Kenyon

The darkest days in the history of Israel were the days of the Judges. The period of Judges lasted for 450 years, and the people persisted in sin throughout those four and a half centuries (Acts 13:19-21). The Book of Judges has a cycle within it that is repeated continuously: Israel sinned; they were oppressed by their enemies; they cried out to God for deliverance; and then God sent a deliverer (judge) to the rescue. The key theme in the Book of Judges is, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). No wonder the time was so dark for the people of God; there was no leadership, and everyone did what he or she thought was right.

There are many today who want to live by this philosophy, but this is a deadly motto to adopt. When people are left to themselves and reject the counsel of God, things often get worse, not better. Man is not wise enough to direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). There is

a way that seems right, but that way leads to destruction (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Even trying to build a home without the Lord's help is an exercise in futility (Psa. 127:1). Never mind what is right in the eyes of man, but instead, we should be concerned with what is right in the Lord's eyes.

God has communicated to humanity what is right in His eyes. He does this through His Word (Psa. 119:33-34). We need our eyes opened so we can see things the way God wants (Psa. 119:18). Human understanding is often faulty, but if we trust in the Lord, He will direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6). The world thinks that doing what is right means that we approve of every behavior and praise sin, but God says we must call evil exactly what it is and never cast approval on it (Isa. 5:20; Rom. 1:32). Some think it does not matter how we worship God as long as we are sincere, but God is looking for those who worship in spirit and according to the truth (John 4:23-24; 17:17). Many teach that truth cannot be known for sure, but Jesus assured us that we can not only know the truth, but that the truth will liberate us (John 8:32).

The days of the judges were dark. They were filled with murder, immorality, and wickedness. The sad thing about the days of the judges was not simply that it was a sinful time, but that it was an extremely sinful time for God's people. Whenever we use the world's bifocals and do what is right in our own eyes, we can expect darkness, destruction, and despair. Yet, when we do what is right in the eyes of God, we will have victory, triumph and His approval. Moses told Israel, "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you" (Deut. 6:18).

4th & Stewart church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, September 29, 2019.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 17, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: James Cammock
P.M. Closing: Mark FitzSimmons

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Sun. P.M.: Jerry FitzSimmons
Wednesday: Mike McVey

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Will Burleson

Greeters: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jamison

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Richard Tisue who has been ill with pneumonia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 19: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10am
Nov. 23: 55+ group will meet at the Morales home @ 4pm for games. Please bring snacks.
Dec. 6: Ladies Kitchen Gadget Exchange at the home of Kasi Jobes at 6:30pm.

AREA EVENTS

Science vs. Evolution with Jeff Miller @ Mathis church of Christ in Rockport

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Hazel Pawlik (18)

Happy Anniversary: Herb & Valerie Ramsey (18);
Larry & Barbara Nuckels (23)

Congratulations!

James and Emily Cammock welcomed baby Matthias Henry on Saturday, Nov. 2nd weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of November 10, 2019

Bible Class.....	128
A.M. Worship.....	140
P.M. Worship.....	102
Monday Gospel Meeting.....	78
Tuesday Gospel Meeting.....	70
Wednesday Gospel Meeting.....	91

Reading for this week: Acts 6-7

And as they were stoning Stephen... he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
Acts 7:59-60



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

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