

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

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Issue 44

Lessons From Luke Peter's Wife's Mother

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)

Each of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke) record the occasion of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. A quick glance may leave one with the impression that the record is simply another example of God's approval of Jesus by "miracles, wonders, and signs" (Acts 2:22). However, a closer and more diligent observation of the text provides spiritual lessons that serve to strengthen our faith.

First, one should note the sickness. Matthew and Mark note simply that the woman was "sick of a fever." (Mt. 8:14; Mk. 1:30). Luke the physician reveals a more serious nature of her illness identifying her fever as "great." According to Hobart (*The Medical Language of Luke*), the ancient Greeks divided fevers into great and small. Also, the wording of Luke indicates the fever to have been continuous, severe, and possibly even a recurring condition. Furthermore, according to Luke there seems to have been a sense of urgency for her life. Peculiar to Luke's account is the term "besought" that carries the sense of *intreating* or even *begging*. While a fever is a common illness among men the severity of the fever indicates something that needed to be addressed without hesitation.

A spiritual lesson to be drawn here is the parallel of physical sickness to sin. Just as sickness is common in the human population, even so sin is common to all humanity (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 1:8; et al). Additionally, the way one becomes sick provides a parallel for us to consider. Causes of sickness vary from low immunity, associating with one who is "contagious," and a failure to properly take care of one's health. Each of these have a spiritual parallel.

The greatest of temptations often come when we are at weak points in our lives, when our "spiritual immunity" is low. Satan's temptations of Jesus provides an excellent example (Lk. 4:1-2). A close association with those who live a life of sin is most certainly a means by which many have fallen from steadfast faithfulness. David instructed, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Ps. 1:1). And on no less than two occasions Paul emphasized to the Corinthians how associations may corrupt: "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (1 Cor. 5:6), and "Evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33, ASV).

Moreover, a failure to grow in the knowledge of God's word leaves one at a high risk of being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14) and "overtaken" (Gal. 6:1) by the adversary (1 Pt. 5:8). To prevent sin sickness Paul encour-

aged the consumption of “sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1) and being “sound in the faith” (Titus 2:2) while Peter admonished “As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pt. 2:2).

Just as physical sickness is common to all even so sin (spiritual sickness) is common to all—the sickness may at times be more severe and the cause may vary but all are susceptible. In our next study we will consider Luke’s account of *Peter’s Wife’s Mother* and draw some lessons from the *Savior* and from the *Servant*.

The Front Pew

It can be scary. It can be intimidating. It can seem like a mile’s walk away. That first step can be one of the most difficult. This past Sunday, it looked like 15 people came forward. In actuality, it was just 2 precious souls who made that brave step forward. Everyone else was there to show love. Everyone else was there for support. Everyone else was there to encourage. It was beautiful. It was uplifting. It was biblical.

This is how we help bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).

This is how we help to encourage each other away from sin (Hebrews 3:13).

This is what it’s like to be apart of God’s family (1 Timothy 3:15).

This is what love looks like (1 John 3:18; 4:12-13).

If we are about helping each other get to heaven, and we should be, then no one should sit on the front pew alone. Confessing sin will always be scary, but the front pew doesn’t have to be. Let’s do what we can to make the front pew one where that person is met with support, prayer, love, and with open arms.

-Selected-

GROWING TOWARD HEAVEN

Nov. 10-13 with Jason Rollo

Sunday

9 a.m. Great And Precious Promises

10 a.m. Giving All Diligence—A Faith Worth Having

1 p.m. Knowing & Standing For The Truth (Virtue/Knowledge)

Monday

7 p.m. Self-Control & Finishing The Race (Temperance/Patience)

Tuesday

7 p.m. Purged From Your Old Sins (Godliness)

Wednesday

7 p.m. Always In Remembrance (Brotherly Kindness/Charity)

Jason Rollo is a 44 year old native Texan and has been married to his wife Bobbi Jan for 24 years. He has two sons and two daughters. Jason is a graduate of Houston College of Bible and Sam Houston State University. Currently Jason serves as one of the elders at the BCS congregation in College Station, TX. He is actively involved in the local college student Bible work. Jason supports himself in secular employment as an Insurance Agency owner. He has been on mission trips to Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, and Mexico and Biblical education trips to Turkey and Israel. Jason has preached in numerous lectureships and Gospel Meetings. He is the author of the Bible Study Program (www.biblestudyprogram.org).



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of November 3, 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: Steve Randle
P.M. Closing: Doug Jobes

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Mike McVey
Wednesday: Larry Nuckels

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Lupe Escojido

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Will Burleson

Greeters: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jamison

Email & Text messaging sign up sheet is available in the hallway and foyer if you want to be contacted with church updates.

Men's Work day and cook out is Sat. Nov. 9 at 8am. Come and enjoy the fellowship even if you may not be able to help.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray that our upcoming gospel meeting is successful and that it will bring lost souls to Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 5, 12, 19: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10am
Nov. 9: Men's Work Day and Cook Out @ 8am
Nov. 10-13: MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo.
Nov. 16: GEMS hosting Ladies Tea for widows @ 11am at the building

AREA EVENTS

Nov. 9: Bible Bowl @ Weber church of Christ
Nov. 9: Ladies' Day @ SW church of Christ in Austin.
Speaker is Carlie Bond.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Mike McVey (3); Marva Hill (6); Jim Hutt, Ben Jamison (9)

Happy Anniversary: Darryl & Sherry Lynch (9)

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 October 27, 2019

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|----------------------------|-----|
| Bible Class..... | 103 |
| A.M. Worship..... | 120 |
| P.M. Worship..... | 103 |
| Wednesday Bible Study..... | 72 |

Offering \$3,485

Reading for this week: Luke 16-18

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.” Luke 17: 3



SUPPORTED WORKS

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

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