

**Episode:** God and His Family No. 15

**Narrator:** Peter's Mother-in-Law

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 4:31-44

**Story Summary:** Jesus heals many, including Peter's mother-in-law

**Location:** Israel

**Time:** 28 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 4:39, Matthew 25:40

Luke 4:31-32 tells of Jesus arrival in Capernaum. This is likely the time when he decides to make Capernaum his base of operations. He teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and the people are amazed at his teaching. Luke 4:33 says there was a man possessed by a demon in the synagogue, with a possible implication that he spent enough time in the synagogue the people were familiar with him. When Jesus heals the man, the reputation of Jesus spreads quickly.

From the synagogue, Jesus walked to the home of Simon Peter, where Simon Peter's mother-in-law suffered from a high fever. Jesus healed her and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his colleagues. Many readers stop the story here, but a very important part continues in Luke 4:40.

Remember that this story happens on the Sabbath when people are supposed to be resting. The Sabbath ends at sundown on Saturday. What would you expect to happen then? "At sunset the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them." Everyone! He healed each one! What a celebration there must have been. An example of what was to come. The following verses indicate Jesus may have healed people all night long. How did Jesus have enough energy to do this? Peter's mother-in-law had fed him and allowed him to rest!

Jesus served the mother-in-law, who served him, Jesus was energized to serve others, and they became able to serve those who had been serving them. Jesus said that he came to earth to serve people. His purpose was to serve! (Mat. 20:28) Jesus was an example of his admonishment that the greatest should be servants. (Luke 22:26)

In Romans 12:6-7, Paul writes that serving is a spiritual gift that should be used by those who have it. In Galatians 5:13, he writes that Christians should serve others humbly and lovingly.

Serving others is a privilege, not something to be done grudgingly. Ephesians 6:6-7 is written to encourage all Christians to do the will of God from your heart, serving wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people. What an amazing twofor...serve people and serve Jesus at the same time. Just like the story of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46.