



## DIVE DEEPER

## READ Mark 1:29-34 (NIV)

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

## THE FUN WORDS:

› (v. 30) **In bed with a fever** - (κατεκειτο πυρεσσοῦσα [katekeito pyres-sousa]). The verb is in the imperfect tense, speaking of continuous action or state in past time. She had been sick for some time. "Of a fever," pyressō (πυρεσσῶ) "to be sick with a fever." The noun form is the Greek word for fire.

• By including accounts of the healing of women as well as men, Mark implied that Jesus was concerned about all people, including those who had a lowly place in society. What the NIV translates "helped ... up" really means raised and often refers to the resurrection both of Jesus and believers. The early church may have seen in the story a foreshadowing of Jesus' power to raise from the dead at the last day.

¿ What does it say about Jesus that he would once again break the Sabbath to bring healing to someone (especially one from a lower caste of society)?

› (v. 32) **That evening after sunset** - (ὅτε ἔδυεν ὁ ἥλιος [hote edusen ho hēlios]). The sabbath ended at sunset and so the people were now at liberty to bring their sick to Jesus. The news about the casting out of the demon and the healing of Peter's mother-in-law had spread all over Capernaum. They brought them in a steady stream (imperfect tense, ἔφερον [epheron]). Luke (4:40) adds that Jesus laid his hand on every one of them as they passed by in grateful procession.

¿ The people still refrained from breaking the Sabbath, but made a beeline to where Jesus was as soon as it was ended. What might have happened if they had shown up earlier?

› (v. 33) **At the door** - (προς τὴν θύραν [pros tēn thuran]). At the door of Peter's house. The whole city was gathered together there. Mark alone mentions this vivid detail. He is seeing with Peter's eyes again. Peter no doubt watched the beautiful scene with pride and gratitude as Jesus stood in the door and healed the great

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. I don't get sick as often as the people sitting around me do.
2. When I do something that causes a stir, I typically lay low for a while before I do something controversial again.
3. My family has a special way of telling when the Sabbath is over.
4. People only follow God for the benefits.
5. God does not like the way we keep the Sabbath.



## DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

crowds in the glory of that sunset. The people had brought their sick to the door of Peter's house, and had seated themselves, waiting for the new Teacher to heal those who were ill. They were there to stay until their mission was accomplished.

¿ What does this scene tell you about the character of God?

› (v. 33) **Various diseases** - (ποικιλαις νοσοις [poikilais nosois]). Jesus was being used by people for healing, but it is against this reality that we see his heart: He genuinely cared about the physical plight of the people whatever their motivations. He hoped to direct some to spiritual reality through his touch. So he lovingly and gently healed them. Not only do we see this, but we also observe that the Savior's healing heart was tireless in its efforts.

¿ Why do you think Jesus healed all of the people, knowing that they were mostly interested in him because of what they could get?

› We can't overlook that in the Gospel of Mark Jesus performed his first two miracles immediately on the Sabbath. Is it possible that the authority of Jesus, so impressively displayed on the Sabbath, comes from the same God who created the Sabbath and made it holy?

¿ Is the God who created the Sabbath for rest, recreation and worship also the same one who is at work so immediately in Jesus?

› One of the ironies threaded through Mark's Gospel is the fact that although the demons recognize Jesus immediately and acknowledge his unique relationship to God, Jesus' own disciples puzzle over his identity and fail to understand him despite their close association and private instruction. It is not by accident that the last sentence spoken by a disciple in Mark is Peter's denial: "I don't know the person of whom you are speaking" (14:71).

¿ Why is it so difficult for us to recognize the true character of God?

NOTES

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## MY PRAYER

1. How can I recognize the authentic character of God today?
2. In what ways do I follow God for the benefits I have or will receive?
3. What do I understand more clearly about God's character now?